

THE
M E M O I R S
O F
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

B Y
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

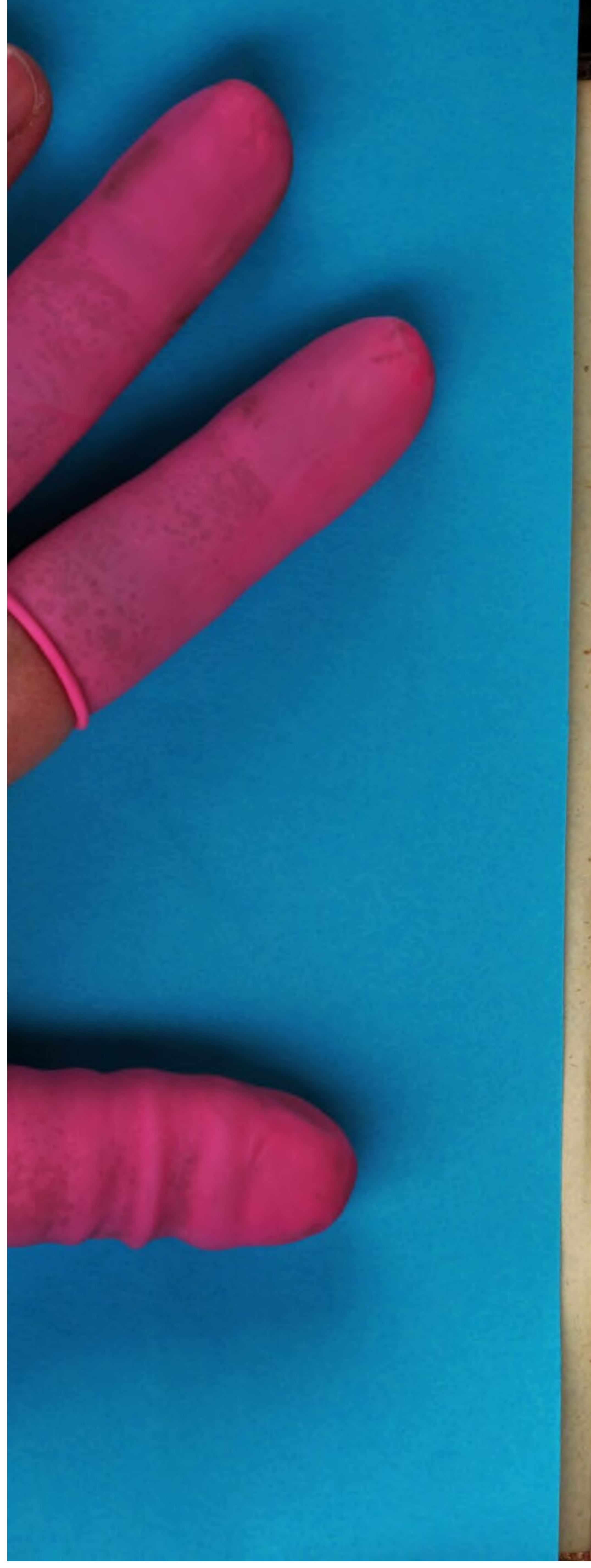
VOL. II.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR,
And sold by all the Bookfellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



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THE
MEMOIRS

OF
MRS. SOPHIA BARRETT

BY

JOHN BARRETT
A NEW EDITION

IN TWO VOLUMES

Vol. II.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY
J. B. BARRETT
AND
J. B. BARRETT
1854

THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

MRS. Baddeley was now as happy as freedom from restraint could make her. She expressed much satisfaction at Lord Melbourne's leaving her, and began to devise how she should pass the remainder of the day ; for the next it was settled that we should go to Brighton. Lord Melbourne had scarce

left our house, before Mr. Damer came. He was happy, he said, to find his Lordship was gone, and begged leave to dine with us. We accordingly took him with us to Hammer Smith, designing to return to dinner. In our way there, one of our horses jumped across the pole, and kicked in such a manner, that we were obliged to alight till they were unharnessed. We walked on, by the turnpike road, and were shortly overtaken by Sir Thomas Mills, who politely offered us the use of his carriage, as it would be some time before our own would come up. However, our own soon made it's appearance, and we went on. On our return to town, we found
three

three letters on the table, one from Captain Fawkner, one from the Duke of Ancafter, and the third from Mr. King the filk-mercier, requesting the payment of one hundred and fifty pounds, which was immediately sent him. The Duke's letter was to invite himself to tea with us the Friday following, which Mrs. Baddeley thus answered :

“ The honour your Grace intends
 “ me on Friday evening, is indispenf-
 “ ably out of my power to accept of,
 “ being under the neceffity to fet off for
 “ Brighthelmftone to-morrow morning;
 “ therefore, I take the liberty to fend
 “ this

“ this line, to prevent your Grace the
“ trouble of being disappointed.

“ I remain with respect,

“ Your humble servant,

“ S. Baddeley.”

“ *Grafton-street,*

“ *Wednesday night.*”

Captain Fawkner's note was as follows :

“ Captain Fawkner presents his
“ compliments to Mrs. Baddeley,
“ enquires after her health, and re-
“ quests the honour of being permitted
“ to dine with her to-morrow, if disen-
“ gaged.”

To

To this Mrs. Baddeley wished to write word, that she should be happy to see him, and would have put off our journey to Brighthelmstone till the day following; for Captain Fawkner was a favourite: but on my telling her it was very improper to stay in town upon such an occasion, she, with some reluctance, sent him the following card:

“ Mrs. Baddeley’s most respectful
“ compliments wait Captain Fawkner,
“ to acquaint him she is obliged to go to
“ Brighthelmstone to-morrow, which
“ deprives her of the pleasure to see
“ Mr. Fawkner, On her return, she
“ will be happy to see him, whenever
“ it may be agreeable.”

At tea-time came Sir Thomas Mills, who was ushered up into the drawing-room. Mrs. Baddeley requested permission of Mr. Damer, to go and take her leave of him. She went up, and I made tea for Mr. Damer, who began to think Mrs. Baddeley staid too long above; I, thinking so too, begged leave I might go and fetch her down. On entering the room, I found Sir Thomas on his knee, entreating Mrs. Baddeley not to go to Brighthelmstone, declaring his love and esteem for her was so great, that it would be death to him to part with her. and a great deal to the like effect. On this, I addressed him with,
“ You know, Sir Thomas, we have
“ company in the house, and it is rude
“ of

“ of Mrs. Baddeley to behave as she
 “ does. I beg, therefore, she may
 “ come down stairs immediately ; and
 “ as to our journey to Brighthelmstone,
 “ as it cannot be dispensed with, I must
 “ request you will say no more on that
 “ subject.” Mrs. Baddeley declared
 she had told him the same ; and after
 some little altercation, she took leave,
 and went down into the parlour. Mr.
 Damer did not seem pleased with her
 behaviour, but on her relating the
 whole, he smiled, and it was forgotten,
 and his kindness at this visit must not
 be omitted. A jeweller had sent her a
 pair of brilliant ear-rings to look at ;
 not ordered indeed by Mrs. Baddeley,
 but with a view to tempt her to the
 pur-

purchase: the value of them was two hundred and fifty pounds. These ear-rings lay in a box on the table, which Mr. Damer opened in our absence, and finding the price sent with the ear-rings, he, with great gallantry, put a draft into the box for the two hundred and fifty pounds, at sight, and gave the box to me, saying, "How careless you are to leave your jewels about in the manner you do!"—I put the box into my pocket, not knowing its contents; but before he went away, he told me he had enclosed a draft in it for the value of the ear-rings, and requested, when he was gone, but not before, that I would present them to Mrs. Baddeley, in his name. At the close of the evening

ing Mr. Damer left us, saying he would meet us at Brighthelmstone in the course of a fortnight.

Having ordered our phaëton and four horses, with horses for two servants, to be at the door at four the next morning, we set off at five, ordering our coach to follow us. We breakfasted at Dorking, where we accidentally met with Sir Cecil Bishop, who was happy to meet us; and we breakfasted together. Sir Cecil was going to London, but said he should be at his house at Storrington in ten days; and politely gave us an invitation to pass a day or two with him.

On our arrival at Brighthelmstone, before we had been an hour in the house, we had several visitors; Mr. William Hanger, Lord Pigot, Captain Pigot, Lord Peterborough, and Captain Crawford. Lord Peterborough stayed tea, and Lord Pigot invited us to Rottendeau the next day to dinner. We accepted the invitation, and went there on horse-back; Lord Melbourne having presented each of us with a horse, as I mentioned before, and which indeed was the only present I received from his Lordship during his connexion with Mrs. Baddeley. Lord Pigot had provided some music, which played as we sat by the sea side; and it being a calm and fine evening, our enjoyment was
beyond

beyond expression : I don't recollect having seen Mrs. Baddeley in better spirits, or more happy, for many months. We walked upon the beach, as the music played, and Mrs. Baddeley entertained us with the song of " Water " parted from the sea."

On our return to Brightelmstone, about eight in the evening, our whole party walked upon the Steine, which was then full of company. Mrs. Baddeley there received the congratulations of many of the nobility on her arrival; and with all her weakneffes, it must be allowed, that she was not without a modest diffidence; to receive the most flattering compliments of so many men

of rank and fashion, of all ages, without the least apparent degree of pride, elation, or affectation.

On our return home, for it must be remembered that we had a house upon the Steine, we found a letter from London, acquainting us that Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Baddeley's mother, lay dangerously ill, and wished to see her daughter. This took us to town the next morning early. We found Mrs. Snow very ill : her daughter ordered her a physician, and every requisite attendance, at her own expence ; and after sitting up with her almost all the night, as we found her better next morning, we set off,

off, at break of day, on our return to
Brighthelmstone.

In our way back, we met with Mr. Vaughan, of Golden Grove, near Dorking, who gave us an invitation to his house, but which we chose to decline. Mrs. Baddeley had another opportunity, a little farther on the road, of gratifying her natural sensibility: meeting with a company of seamen, seemingly distressed, she humanely inquired into the cause of it; and being told they had lost their all, by being wrecked on the Suffex coast, she gave them five guineas, which the poor creatures received with such thankfulness and tears

B 3

of joy, as must communicate a heart-felt satisfaction to a feeling mind.

On reaching Brighthelmstone, we dressed ourselves, and walked out upon the Steine, where we were accosted by Mr. John Hanger, who politely paid his respects to us; but Mrs. Baddeley not giving him an answer, he began to talk so loud, that I was fearful it would draw a crowd round us, for the Steine was covered with company. I requested he would leave us, but could not prevail: he appeared almost distracted, and said he should go mad, if Mrs. Baddeley did not speak to him. As every one had their eyes on us, we thought it best to go home. He followed, and begged

begged admittance into the house, and indeed would take no denial. Mr. Hanger did not want for art, and he knew well the part he was playing. Mrs. Baddeley could never get rid of her attachment to him, and, notwithstanding all I could say to the contrary, thought proper to seal his pardon; but I took care he should not stay at our house: and he being next morning obliged to set off for London, we got rid of him. Mrs. Baddeley long endeavoured to smother her affection for this faithless man, but to no purpose. Every time she saw him was a fresh mortification, and her respect and attention to me was the cause of many an unhappy hour. At this last interview, he

he made use of a thousand protestations, that he would behave well to her for the future. With tears in her eyes she could not but forgive him, and, when he was gone, said a great deal to me in his favour. I reasoned with her on the folly and impropriety of her conduct, in listening to a man who had so cruelly treated her; but I found, the more I said to her on the subject, the more she argued in extenuation of his faults. In short, though she was conscious he deserved her most inveterate hatred, yet such is the frailty of the female heart, that it soon forgets the injuries it receives from the object of its affection, and will almost forgive as soon as asked. On Mr. Hanger's leaving Bright-helmstone,

helmstone, she became visibly unhappy, and a melancholy hung about her. Lord Pigot called on us the next day, whom she immediately informed of Mr. Hanger's having been with her: his Lordship said, he had heard of his behaviour on the Steine the night before; thought he must be mad, and hoped she would not countenance such a man, who, in the opinion of his friends, deserved no pity. She then related to Lord Pigot the many promises he had made, and the many oaths he had sworn, to behave better in future; at which Lord Pigot said, he was a brute in nature, and, for his cruel treatment of her, merited all her detestation. This language of Lord Pigot's did not
please

please her ; however, she thanked his Lordship for his good advice, and would endeavour to profit by it. After three hours conversation on this subject, he asked us how we were disposed ; and on our saying we had some thoughts of taking a ride to Lewes, he replied, if we would take our coach, he would accompany us. Telling him our horses had not been long in the stable, and were not fit to go a journey of sixteen miles, his Lordship offered us the use of his. We profited by his politeness, went to Lewes ; and in our way back, he took great pains to divert Mrs. Baddeley's thoughts, and keep up her spirits ; which he in some measure effected,

fectcd, and she was the better for the ride, and his kind advice.

On our return, we found Mr. Damer had called, and left word he would call again in the evening. This being sooner by ten days than he promised, it was unexpected. At this visit, which he declared he had ridden day and night to pay, he proposed making a settlement of four hundred pounds a year on Mrs. Baddeley, with every comfort of life she could wish; saying, indeed, in this case, he would not suffer the visits of Lord Melbourne, or any other man, on the score he was on; but that he had no wish to debar her from seeing her friends; that, as he could no longer withhold his love
for

for her, which he had often acquainted her with, and which she had as often rejected, he came now with a resolution to know her mind upon the subject; assuring her, that, if she would throw herself under his care and protection, he would be her friend through life.

To this she was silent. He pressed for an answer, but she gave him none: at last, on further importunity, she said,
“ Mr. Damer, I hold myself under the
“ greatest obligation to you for your
“ offer; but pardon me in freely and
“ candidly expressing myself, and give
“ me a patient hearing.

“ After thanking you for your par-
“ tiality to me, and for your liberal
“ proposal,

“ proposal, I must tell you frankly my
“ situation with Lord Melbourne. I
“ have from him received such favours,
“ and his love for me is so great, that
“ he has a claim to my affections in
“ return; but as there is a tie on his
“ part, which should forbid the con-
“ nexion, so is there on yours. Though
“ shame should stop my utterance, I am
“ honest enough to own my connexion
“ with Lord Melbourne to you. Di-
“ stress led me to it first, and his Lord-
“ ship’s perseverance and generosity has
“ continued me in it; so that I hold
“ myself in part to be his. How un-
“ grateful then must I be to such a
“ benefactor, to listen to proposals from
“ you, or any other man! I do not

“ withhold my compliance to your
“ request, from any dislike ; for I shall
“ be happy in your acquaintance on
“ the score of friendship ; but, as a
“ man of honour, you must expect no
“ more. My imprudence with Lord
“ Melbourne arose only from grati-
“ tude ; and I hold myself bound to
“ keep my faith with him, whilst he
“ behaves well to me. I beg, there-
“ fore, you will, from this time, drop
“ all thoughts of the subject you are
“ now upon, and I shall esteem and
“ value you ; but, if you persist in
“ your pursuit, I must decline your
“ company ; which, believe me, would
“ hurt me much.”

In

In this mode did she reason with him ;
and he was all attention : at last, he
broke silence with, “ My dear Baddeley,
“ have you done ? ” She replied, “ Yes.”
“ Then,” said he, “ I love you, if
“ possible, more than ever, for your
“ noble and generous declaration ; and,
“ though I feel myself mortified at the
“ disappointment, I admire your con-
“ duct to Lord Melbourne, and have
“ only to lament my unfortunate situ-
“ ation, and say, that you shall ever
“ find me a true friend to you. Though
“ you have repulsed my wishes, in which
“ my happiness was centred, it is on
“ such grounds that I must adore you ;
“ and be assured, from this moment, till
“ I hear of your connexions with Lord

“ Melbourne being over, I will never
“ put the question to you again. Let
“ me pay, therefore, my respects to
“ you in friendship only, and you shall
“ have no cause to complain.” The
matter thus ended: he in a short time
took his leave, and set off for London.

This visit we had much to say on;
and I can of a truth declare, that Mrs.
Baddeley pleased me more by her con-
duct to Mr. Damer, than ever she had
done before; for, though she sacrificed
to Lord Melbourne's wishes, it was
owing to distress; which was not the
case when Mr. Damer applied to her.
Mrs. Baddeley assured me, that what she
said to him were the dictates of her
heart,

heart, and that she now found herself more reconciled to her situation. “ I
 “ will now,” continued she, “ tell you
 “ a secret of Lord Pigot. The day
 “ we dined at Rottendean, when we
 “ went into the garden to gather some
 “ strawberries, he made strong love to
 “ me; said he was a single man, and
 “ that if I would consent to come and
 “ live with him, he would sue Mr.
 “ Baddeley to a divorce, and marry me;
 “ and that, prior to this, he would grant
 “ me a settlement of six hundred pounds
 “ a year. He said all this with a serious
 “ face, and gave me a month to con-
 “ sider of it, expressly enjoining me
 “ not to drop a word of it to you. I
 “ told his Lordship that I certainly
 C 3 “ should

“ should not acquaint you with it, lest
“ you should entertain a bad opinion
“ of him, for that at present you had
“ the highest. So, my dear,” continued she, “ you see what mankind
“ are !” This tale not a little surpris’d
me, as I conceived Lord Pigot’s attention to Mrs. Baddeley to spring from mere friendship. She promised me, however, to give his Lordship’s application no countenance, and begged I would not appear to know it.

A few days after, there was an express brought from town, informing us, that Mrs. Snow was worse, and begged to see us immediately. This alarmed Mrs. Baddeley exceedingly: indeed her
duty

duty and attention to her parents, upon all occasions, deserve the highest commendations : her liberality to them was boundless ; and she never heard of their distress, but she relieved them to the utmost of her power. After paying the messenger, who was sent post on the occasion, we dispatched him back to town, saying, we should be there almost as soon as he : we set off immediately, and found Mrs. Snow ill indeed, but very sensible and correct in a speech she thought proper to make her daughter. Mrs. Snow was a tender mother, a sincere friend, and a religious good woman. After giving us an account of her illness, and how much she suffered by the same, she gave us to understand that
she

she approached very near the end of her days; and she thanked God she was perfectly resigned. “And now, my dear “Mrs. Steele,” says she, taking me by the hand as she lay in her bed, “let “me thank you for your kind attention “to me upon all occasions, and next, “for your friendship to my dear Sophia;” for so she called Mrs. Baddeley. Then, turning to her daughter, she said, “O my dear child, remember the words “of a mother who dearly loves you, “and who feels more for you than my “poor heart can utter.—Be not offended, my dear Sophia, at the advice I “am going to give you. I too well “know how, in the early part of your “life, you was driven from the paths of “virtue;

“ virtue ; that may God forgive your
 “ cruel husband for, and may he pardon
 “ all you have done amiss !—But ere
 “ it be too late, let me intreat you
 “ to leave off your little—*little*, do I call
 “ them ?—no, my Sophia, your *great*
 “ foibles.—You have merit, my dear,
 “ and talents to support you in an
 “ honest way : shake off then your at-
 “ tachments from every man, more par-
 “ ticularly where a wife is in question.
 “ O, my Sophia, the tears I have shed
 “ for you in secret, are not to be num-
 “ bered.—A morsel of bread earned by
 “ honest industry, is more to be valued
 “ than all the splendor you possess.”

Mrs. Baddeley was much affected, and
 cried bitterly ; her mother often taking
 her

her in her arms, and at times not able to utter a word for tears. “Do, my
“Sophia,” continued she, “repent,
“and follow the advice of your dying
“mother.—Pray to God to forgive you,
“as I do; and depend on it, if you ask
“for pardon sincerely, you will have it;
“for there is more joy in heaven over
“one sinner that repenteth, than over
“ninety and nine just persons that need
“no repentance. So, see, my dear
“child, what a merciful God we have!
“—Remember thy Creator in the
“days of thy youth, and to him lift
“up your prayers, and pray for grace
“to protect you from evil ways, that
“I may hear you promise me, and keep
“that promise, that you will in future
“mend

“ mend your life, and put your trust
 “ in your heavenly Father ; and know,
 “ that it’s through our blessed Saviour,
 “ Jesus Christ alone, that we can be
 “ saved : and remember, there is no re-
 “ pentance in the grave ;—it is then too
 “ late !”—Here she stopped, and wept
 exceedingly, as did every one present.

Mrs. Baddeley rose and fell upon her
 knees at the bed-side ; first asked her
 mother’s blessing, which she had ; then
 said, “ Dear, dear mother, I have paid
 “ due attention to your tender advice ;
 “ and I will not omit to act as you wish
 “ me, as far as lies in my power : I am
 “ too sensible of my faults, but hope
 “ the all-merciful God will forgive me,
 “ which

“ which I will pray for, and beg, dear
“ mother, you will not grieve for me.
“ I will remember at all times to fol-
“ low your instructions : it would have
“ been happy for me, if I had ever done
“ so ; but I hope it is not too late.”

To these words of contrition, her
mother replied, “ Now, my dear child,
“ you make me happy beyond expres-
“ sion ; and I shall die in peace, when-
“ ever it shall please God to take me :
“ so pray rise and sit down by me.”

This scene was a very affecting one.
Not a word more passed on this subject,
on either side, except that Mrs. Baddeley
took my hand, and said, “ My dear
“ mother, you may indeed thank Mrs.

“ Steele,

“ Steele, who has taken more pains to
“ cure me of my follies, than any one
“ besides.” To this Mrs. Snow replied,
turning to me, “ God blefs you for it!”

We then went for Dr. Eliot (late Sir John), to attend her, who told me apart, he did not think her so bad as she thought herself; but that, as she was in a deep decline and dropfical, she could not live six months: however, he would do all in his power for her. Mrs. Baddeley desired him to attend her daily, and was very anxious to know from me, what the Doctor thought of her: I told her in the softest manner I could, and she wept much. We stayed all this night with her, and in the morning took

our leave; Mrs. Baddeley giving her mother twenty pounds, and desiring her not to want for any thing; for, when that was gone, she should have more, and every thing in her power to give her; and begged, if she found herself worse, to send for her express, and she would fly to her with the utmost speed possible. On quitting Mrs. Snow, we called in Grafton-street, and found a letter from Lord Melbourne, and then set off again for Brighthelmstone, without making any stay in town.

The following is a copy of Lord Melbourne's letter: it was written in answer to an application of Mrs. Baddeley, for eight hundred pounds, to
dis-

discharge an engagement she had entered into for her brother.

“ My dear Love,

“ I understand you at present
 “ want the enclosed sum to assist your
 “ brother with, which will be the last
 “ inconveniencies you are to have for
 “ his sake. I am very hartily glad of
 “ it, because excuse me, as I have be-
 “ fore told you, from your great good-
 “ nature, and goodness of hart, you
 “ have already been to good in fre-
 “ quently distressing yourself upon this
 “ account, and I hope you will be pru-
 “ dent and nuf not to be perswaided to
 “ engage yourself further for his depts.

D 2

“ I am

“ I am very happy that I was informed
“ of it, because it always gives me the
“ greatest happiness to oblige my
“ love with every thing in my power.
“ I hope you have got the horse, or
“ will find one that will answer well,
“ but I beg you will not be to ven-
“ ture as there is bad horse, but
“ get one quite quiet. I shall long
“ to see your dear face, which I will as
“ soon as possible, and will endeavour
“ to be back, if only for a moment,
“ in about a fortnight. I will write to
“ you from York. Pray be careful
“ not to mention my name at Bright-
“ helmston, or any where that whe
“ may not be plagued again by the
“ ill-

“ ill-natured world. Ten thousand
“ kisses for your dear face, and believe
“ me Love.

“ Yours, sincerely and affectionately,

“ Melbourne.”

“ Pray destroy all my letters, least
“ any one should see them by axce-
“ dent. Adieu my dear, I will find
“ some way to hear from you.

“ *Thursday morning.*”

This letter is a literal copy of his
Lordship's: his other letters were equal-
ly ill spelt, &c. but I have taken the
liberty to correct them, that they may
not hurt the eye of the reader.

In our way back to Brightelmstone, Mrs. Baddeley dwelt much on her mother's advice ; said, " she was happy in
" her youth ; and, had she power and
" opportunity to give advice to young
" minds, how would she warn them
" from acting as she had done ! For
" though, says she, I was betrayed
" into shame, I have no plea on earth
" to follow it ; having sufficient abilities,
" ties, as both you and my mother
" tell me, to support myself, with perseverance, by my profession and my
" industry." Here I had a favourable opportunity of throwing in some of my advice ; and the reader may believe me when I say I did not miss it. Mrs. Baddeley then said, " Well, if you will
" consent

“ consent to one thing I have to pro-
 “ pose, I will upon my word give over
 “ every idle thought, and strive to con-
 “ vince you, by my future conduct, how
 “ much I think myself obliged to you ;
 “ and I will attend to my engagements
 “ with Mr. Garrick, and at Ranelagh,
 “ as you wish me.” “ Well, what is it,”
 said I, “ that you wish for ?” “ Only,”
 returns she, “ to go to Paris, in
 “ order to see the country, the theatres,
 “ the manner of the performers there,
 “ and the different fashions of the place,
 “ and, if possible, to bring over some
 “ few articles of dress, which cannot
 “ be procured here.” I remonstrated
 against this, reminded her of her mo-
 ther’s illness, and reasoned with her on
 the

the expence of the journey. “As to the
“expence,” says she, “that I do not
“mind: I have set my heart so much
“upon it, that I shall not be happy if
“I don’t go: we will only be gone ten
“days.” I did not know well how to
refuse her, and of course consented to go
with her; but gave her to understand,
that we must have more money before
we could think of it, and that we would
endeavour to set off in a week’s time.
“A week!” exclaimed she, “that’s an
“age! Why can’t we go to-morrow?”
I told her it was impossible, as our
cloaths were not prepared, and I thought
it necessary she should take her dia-
monds with her: besides, it was proper
to know how her mother was, lest she
should

should die in her absence. We agreed at last to set off in a week. On our arrival at Brighthelmstone we found a letter from Lord Melbourne, written from York, of which the following is a copy.

“ York, Wednesday 20, 1771.

“ My dearest Love,

“ I intended to have had the
“ pleasure of writing to you Monday,
“ but ever so late for the post, and
“ I hope you have been very well since
“ I saw you in town, which I think is
“ an age since, but I will wish the time
“ to pass away quick, for the happiness
“ of seeing you, and if I can soon gett
“ an opportunity, you may be sure it
“ will

“ will give me the greatest happynefs.

“ Don’t think I love you lefs, becaufe

“ I do not write you four fides of pa-

“ per, but be afhured of the love and

“ affection of, dear love,

“ Your’s,

“ Melbourne.”

“ P. S. I am going, for about a

“ week, into the county of Durham,

“ and fhall then retorn to this part of

“ the countrey, and you fhall here from

“ me, and how you can write to me, as

“ I am impatient to here you are well.

“ Ten thoufand kifles for your dear

“ face. I am fhure I need not tell you

“ to keep fecret having heard from me.

“ Adieu.”

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley said she would write an answer to this letter, but not say a word of the Paris jaunt: in short, she was in such spirits about this journey, that she thought of nothing else than, what we should take with us, who we should intrust to fetch what we wanted from London, and what money I had at home. I told her, I should employ no one on the occasion, but go to town myself. We then agreed to set off for London in a day or two, and this would give her an opportunity of seeing her mother again.

Being rather fatigued with our journey, on our arrival at Brightelmstone, we determined to be denied to every
one

one that might call on us this night, and go to bed in time: but this we could not do; for Captain Crawford, seeing Mrs. Baddeley at the window, begged the favour to speak to her, and he would not trespass on her more than ten minutes. He was admitted, and his ten minutes were three hours. He acquainted us with the Duke of Cumberland's being down there, paying his addresses to the amiable widow Horton (to whom he is since married), that it would be a match, and all the proceedings of his Highness; in short, he told us all the news of the place. He supped with us, and left us at eleven.

The

The morning being fine, we ordered our horses, and took a ride upon the Downs, where Mrs. Baddeley received the compliments of all the nobility who were there riding; but her mare throwing her (though she received no hurt) she determined never to ride her again. I offered her my horse, but she was not able to manage him: the consequence was, that we walked back to Brighton, and many gentlemen alighted from their horses, and walked with us. On the Downs, we fell into conversation with Sir George Warren, whose lady at that time had left him, and was at Storrington, with her father, Sir Cecil Bishop. He talked much of her, but

said nothing either in favour of her, or Sir Cecil.

In the evening we went to the sea side, to one of the benches, to play a game at chess, of which Mrs. Baddeley was very fond, and where we thought we might amuse ourselves unnoticed, having a small chess-board in our pocket. Whilst we were at play, who should present himself but Mr. Franco, the Jew merchant of Fenchurch-street, who was an old admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, and who unfortunately met once with some rough treatment from our servant, as I have mentioned before? This gentleman came rather suddenly upon us, with, “ Ah, “ vat, have I caught you!” and Mrs. Baddeley

Baddeley screaming, it so frightened him, that he reeled backwards; and being near the edge of the sea bank, down he went, a considerable height. Mrs. Baddeley fell at this into such an immoderate fit of laughter, that she had not power to move from her seat: however, I went to see what was become of him, and found him crawling up the bank again. He told me he was very much hurt; but, as I could not assist him, I made the best of my way after Mrs. Baddeley, who had returned homewards, laughing all the way at the little Jew's disaster. Indeed, though I was sorry for the accident, yet the ridiculous figure of the man, his fright and

confusion, all together, was sufficient to make a Stoic laugh.

On Lord Pigot's calling, he was made acquainted with our intended journey to Paris, and that we meant to go in the packet from this place to Dieppe. He seemed mortified at our going, but, on a promise from Mrs. Baddeley to write to him, wished us a good journey, and a speedy return.

We now concluded on going for London, where we provided ourselves with every thing necessary, and took five hundred pounds for our tour. We called on Mrs. Snow, found her something better, but did not mention
a word

a word of our journey. Mrs. Baddeley gave her mother twenty pounds more, and told her she hoped to see her again in fourteen days, as she was then going out of town. Notwithstanding we had so much property with us, we left town in the evening, and did not reach the Downs till it was quite dark. We then began to think of our danger; but no accident happened, and we reached Brightelmstone safe.

Mrs. Baddeley would not let me sleep all night; she was eager to set off the next day at day-break, and would have hired a packet for the purpose. I could not conceive what all this eagerness proceeded from; but the reader will

know in the sequel. As she would not let me rest, I was under the necessity of agreeing to her plan. We hired a packet, and sailed the next morning, without taking leave of any one; and a dreadful passage we had. Such a storm arose, as I know not how to describe; we expected every moment to be at the bottom. However, after being forty-eight hours at sea, we arrived in sight of Dieppe. A boat was sent off to take us on shore; and, though the captain told us it was a dangerous attempt to risk ourselves in the boat, yet so anxious was I to get upon land, that I paid little regard to what he said. I was the first that got over the ship's side, and was no sooner in the boat, than she

struck

struck by the ways, and the whole head of the boat dashed to pieces in a minute. I fortunately got safe again on board; and we were obliged to stay some hours, and weather out the storm, before we could be landed with safety. After such an escape, and so much frightened, the reader will, I doubt not, rejoice with me on our being safe ashore. It is not in the power of words to express my joy on the occasion.

Unacquainted with travelling in France, we were obliged to submit to our landlord's disposal of us: he procured a chaise and four, as he called it; and off we set for Paris, travelling night and day, fearless of danger, and regardless

less of the many robbers we were told we might meet with, who generally attacked travellers in bodies, twenty in number ; and that they seldom robbed but they murdered. I was not for travelling in such haste and danger ; but nothing could prevail on Mrs. Baddeley to the contrary, though, of the two, she was the most timid. In short, we travelled at such a rate as if we were flying for our lives : the horses galloped all the way ; no money was spared to encourage the drivers ; where money could not tempt them, our servants obliged them to go on by threats. This a modern traveller will, perhaps, call seeing and reconnoitring the country. In a word, the pace we went, and the roughness

roughness of the roads, which there are paved, so shook me, that I was as fore as if I had been beaten. Mrs. Baddeley did not complain, though I have reason to think she was as sick of the journey as myself.

When we got to Paris, it was dark; but we found our way to the Hôtel where the King of Denmark lodged when in that city. We were too much shaken to think of any thing but bed: we met with a good one, and slept soundly the next day till eleven. Whilst we were at breakfast, Mrs. Baddeley desired to speak with the master of the house, and in a room apart from me. I wondered at this; and so will the reader,
till

till he is told she was inquiring for her Gaby, whom she, unknown to me, had promised, at their last interview at Brighthelmstone, to meet at this house : but how was she mortified, when the man told her the gentleman was gone for England, and left Paris yesterday!—“O God!” she exclaimed, “can this be true?” “Indeed, Madam,” returned he, “Sir John Blaquiere informed me so: he saw him get into his chaise for Calais.” When I heard this, I was so enraged with her, that I could scarcely contain myself. She then opened the whole mystery, said Mr. Hanger had been waiting for her at Paris, almost ever since she last saw him. “For shame! Sophy,” said I, “never name
“ it :

“ it : had I known it, you should never
 “ have brought me here.” “ Well,”
 said she, “ my dear, don’t be unhappy :
 “ I am at your service, and will return
 “ with you immediately.” “ In pur-
 “ suit,” said I, “ I suppose, of this vile
 “ man ?”—But we were soon put off
 from this, on being told we could not
 leave Paris without a passport, which
 was to be shown at the gates ; and that
 we could not obtain one till the King’s
 return from Compiègne, where he now
 was, and which might not be for a
 month or two to come. This was no
 little embarrassment to Mrs. Baddeley ;
 and, though I was sorry at the thought of
 being so long detained, I was happy she
 had it not in her power to follow
 Mr.

Mr. Hanger. I talked to her roundly upon this occasion, and made her so heartily ashamed of her coming after him, that whatever might have been her inclination, she wished never to be upbraided with her folly, and often acknowledged it was wicked to act as she had done.

The next day she was quite easy about him; and we then came to a determination to see what was to be seen, visit the different manufactories, and partake of all the amusements of the place. Accordingly we hired an elegant carriage for the time we meant to stay, and a French woman and man servant; our own not knowing a word of the language. In the evening, we went to the
French

French Comédie, where Sir John Blaquiere, to whom we had the honour of being known, came and paid his respects to us. This was a favourable opportunity for Mrs. Baddeley to learn something of Mr. Hanger: from Sir John she learnt, that he had been in the greatest expectation of seeing her at Paris, for some days; that he had expressed much uneasiness on the subject, and that he was returned to Brighthelmston in pursuit of her. On her telling Sir John, that she could not leave Paris for want of a passport, which she knew not how to apply for; he said he was secretary to Lord Harcourt, and would apply to his Majesty for one; but that, as the King was then at Compiègne,

it would be a fortnight at soonest, before he should be able to obtain it; and that no other person than he, or the Ambassador, could procure it so soon. Sir John spent the evening with us, and the next morning called and breakfasted, and said, if agreeable, he would accompany us that evening to the Colisée, a place of entertainment, something like our Vauxhall. We accepted of his civility, and, as soon as he left us, ordered four horses to our carriage, and went to view the palace at Versailles, and returned to Paris highly delighted with what we had seen, both there and on the road.

In

In the evening Sir John attended us to the Colifée. On entering a large room there, we were agreeably struck with a fine band of music; and in the gardens adjoining was a large piece of water, in which were displayed the most brilliant fire-works I ever beheld. Mrs. Baddeley being taken ill with a bad head-ache, we were obliged to return home, before the entertainments were over. On our passing the great room to go to our carriage, we met with Mrs. Abington, of Drury-lane Theatre; and not knowing she was at Paris, the unexpected pleasure was great on both sides: friendly invitations took place mutually, and we took leave of her and Sir John, and made the best of our

way to our hôtel. After taking some strong coffee, Mrs. Baddeley found herself better, and desired the best shoemaker in Paris might be sent for, to measure her for some shoes. In less than half an hour, a genteel man in a black silk suit of clothes, with a *chapeau bras* under his arm, his hair exceedingly well dressed, and a sword by his side, was shown up to our room: on his entrance, we both rose from our seats, conceiving it to be some gentleman; but on being given to understand, that this man of the French *ton*, was no other than the shoe-maker, it was with difficulty we could refrain from laughing, at the contrast between this man and a shoe-maker in England; and more so when

when he called in his servant, who attended with a bag of beautiful silk shapes, and some shoes, as a specimen of his workmanship. They being at a much less price than we could get them in London, we ordered twenty-four pairs to be made with the utmost expedition.

The next day, we went to view a china manufactory, at some little distance from Paris; but, before we set out, we received a polite note from Mrs. Abington to inquire how we were, and another from Sir John Blaquiere. At this manufactory, is a very extensive long room, full, from one end to the other, of the most superb china, in glass

F 3

cases,

cases, that ever was seen. Having feasted our eyes with this beautiful collection, (for we purchased nothing) we set off on our return; but stopping at an inn, in order to dine, an incident happened that highly diverted us. Two girls waited at table: one was about seventeen years of age, the other nineteen, daughters of the mistress of the house, who was a widow. Mrs. Baddeley, being this day in high spirits, joked with the girls about sweethearts, and asked if either of them was going to be married. One of them said, "I shall soon:" the other, the youngest, made no answer, but stood silent, with her eyes fixed on me. In short, from the time I came into the house,

house, she had eye'd me in so particular a manner, as to be noticed by Mrs. Baddeley. This girl inquired of our servant, who we were, and whether I was not a gentleman in disguise; for we were dressed in riding-habits. Our men laughed at the conceit, and giving no answer, this simple girl concluded her suggestions to be right; and one of the men coming in and telling us the circumstance, Mrs. Baddeley favoured the supposition, and on the girl's coming again into the room, said, "if you are
" not engaged, this friend of mine, who
" has dressed himself like a woman, is
" so much in love with you, that I don't
" know what will be the consequence."
The girl simply replied, that till this
day,

day, she had never seen a person she could make choice of; and on being asked whether the gentleman was an Englishman, or Frenchman, she answer'd, an Englishman. "Oh! my dear," says Mrs. Baddeley to her, "I fear you have
" made a bad choice; for all English
" gentlemen are false — except you,
" Sir," turning to me. This was sufficient: the girl coloured and smiled, and began without hesitation to compliment me. I told her I was a woman; but it had no effect. Mrs. Baddeley declared otherwise, (and the foolish girl believed her) and kept the joke up so long, that it was too late to think of returning to Paris that night; so we concluded with staying where we were. When I retired to
a chamber,

a chamber, this girl attended me, and in a very plain, but awkward manner, declared how much she loved me; said I might think little of her for her declaration, but she was not able to conceal her passion; that she would never leave me, but follow me to the world's end. All I could say to her was to no purpose. Mrs. Baddeley came into the room soon after, and declared, that if I would not take her under my protection, she would under hers; that the girl should not be made unhappy, and should absolutely go with us. The mother came in, and inquired into this affair, and was at last of the same opinion with her daughter, and declared, she did not in the least disapprove of her daughter's

ter's choice. I never was more embarrassed in my life ; Mrs. Baddeley telling the mother I was a young gentleman, whom my father would have forced into a marriage disagreeable to me, and that I had run away in consequence of it, and had put on this disguise to prevent discovery. Though I averred it was all a joke ; to see the attention of the mother and daughter to all Mrs. Baddeley said, and the poor girl's wishful look at me, I could not help laughing. The mother told me the girl had a pretty fortune, was a good girl, and would be a wife fit for any man. At this I smiled, and attempting to leave the room, the girl started, took me round the neck, and fell a kissing me with

with such ardour, that for some time I could not get from her. Mrs. Baddeley laughed so heartily, that she could scarce keep her seat; and the girl began to cry. On my striving to get from her, she complained of my cruelty, and said I had not given her even so much as one kiss. In short, Mrs. Baddeley so encouraged her, that I was distressed beyond measure. This lasted till one o'clock in the morning; and I was forced to say I would go to bed, in order to get rid of her. Mrs. Baddeley, to keep up the farce, ordered, in her hearing, a room with two beds, though we never slept together on the road. This was a farther confirmation of what the poor silly girl wished; and of course my troubles did

did not end here. Having seen our room, and chosen our beds, we gave directions for their arrangement; and, when we retired to rest, I was so jaded with this girl, that I was scarce able to undress myself; Baddeley laughing at me the whole time. I made shift however to get into bed, and, to my great astonishment, was laid hold of in the bed by this girl, who had secreted herself there. I began now to lose all temper, and told her she was an impudent hussy, and if she did not that minute get out of bed, and leave the room, I would call the servants to take her out. Mrs. Baddeley had now some pity on me, and thought it was time to undeceive the girl, by declaring she had only
been

been joking, in saying I was a gentleman, for that in fact I was a lady; and begged of her to go away. It was a long time before she would believe her, and not before I had half dressed myself again, and threatened to call her mother and the servants. She clung about me, cried much, and said she should not live if I turned her out of the room, and a great deal of nonsense to the like effect. In short, Mrs. Baddeley was herself sufficiently punished for her joke, it being three in the morning before we could get rid of her.—So much for French delicacy.

When we rose, the mother came to us, said she was very unhappy on ac-

count of her daughter, who had taken such a liking to me, that she did not know what would be the consequence.

We both declared, that what was said respecting my being a gentleman, was merely a joke, were sorry it had gone so far, and that, if she disbelieved us, there were persons in Paris who would convince her of it. The mother would not believe us, any more than the daughter; and no other way had we to get from the house, than by a promise to return in two days. I had a beautiful whip, which cost me two guineas and a half: the girl got hold of it, and said I should not have it till I returned. After paying our bill, saying some civil things to the mother and daughter, and
leaving

leaving my whip in the girl's possession, which I was glad to do in order to get away quietly, we were permitted to go on to Paris.

In the evening we went to the Italian comédie, where we were much entertained, and where Mrs. Baddeley attracted the notice of many Gentlemen. After the opera, on our return home, we found Mrs. Abington, whom we were happy to see. She told us, if we wanted to purchase fashionable articles in millinery, and trimmings for the stage, where we might get them, and made us acquainted with every place worth seeing at Paris. She next informed us that she was going to England in a few days,

and, if we had any commands, she should be happy to oblige us. Her politeness, on this and every other occasion, need not be told to those who are happy in her acquaintance: she left us, saying she would call on us again before she quitted Paris.

The next morning we went a shopping, agreeably to the directions we had received the night before, and bought a variety of caps, handkerchiefs, ruffles, aprons, trimmings, &c. to a considerable amount. At Le Duc's, the King's taylor, Mrs. Baddeley purchased a trimming for a sack and coat, consisting of silver embroidery, with flowers, and the richest work that could be put in it: this
cost

cost her fifty pounds, besides more money to have it further enriched with silver tassels, which were then worn.

We next went round the *Bijoux* shops, where jewels and trinkets of all kinds are sold. She there purchased two watches, and trinkets of several kinds, with pocket-books and sundry other articles. After this some fans were produced: of these she bought several, some for the stage, and others for her private use, too expensive to name. She also purchased two dozen of silk stockings, twelve dozen pair of kid gloves, and a quantity of fine cambrick, lawn, and lace. On our return home, it was sufficient amusement to look over our purchases,

and pack them properly up for their conveyance to England.

The day following, we took a journey to see a fine piece of machinery, erected to convey water to a considerable distance, without the help of fire; which took us two hours to examine. In the evening, we were at the French comédie, where we met with Sir John Blaquiere again, who with his usual politeness addressed us, and said he should be able to procure us our passport in six days. Mrs. Baddeley so attracted the attention of the French nobility, that when the play was over, numbers of them crowded the passage to see her pass. Sir John Blaquiere handed her
to

to her carriage, and Sir Francis Dashwood did me the honour to do the same. Many were the inquiries respecting us; but no information could be had, our servants having orders on no account to say who we were. Inquiries were also made at the hôtel, but all to no purpose; and many compliments from persons unknown were also sent to us, but to which no answer was returned. We made ourselves happy in taking all the pleasure the place could afford, without mixing with any of the people. We saw every thing worth notice, within fifty miles of Paris, and were present at every amusement in the place. Mrs. Abington came to take her leave of us; and we should have been happy to have accom-

accompanied her to England; but that was impossible, not having our passport. At last Sir John Blaquiere brought it, and asked us if he could be of any further service to us; or, if we were in want of cash, he would be proud to accommodate us. We told him we had come sufficiently prepared in that respect, and had only to thank him for his kindness and polite attention to us.

So anxious was Mrs. Baddeley to return to England, that she determined to set off that afternoon: accordingly, having discharged every demand upon us, we hired a chaise to carry us to Calais, and left Paris at four o'clock, determining to travel night and day till we
got

got there; which we did, though a good deal intimidated by the inn-keepers, who would fain have induced us to stay at their houses, from an apprehension they alarmed us with, of robbers on the way. We were two nights upon the road; and at one house, where we stopped at midnight, the master having by mistake taken four livres too little, he dispatched two horsemen after us, who alarmed us exceedingly; for they overtook us about three miles from the inn, crying out, Stop, stop! We ordered the drivers to mend their pace; and finding they pursued us, and conceiving them to be robbers, we ordered our men to take out the pistols, and give us one each; for, as there were but two riding
after

after us, and we were six in number, we were resolute enough to determine not to be plundered. We were at last overtaken; and it being a minute before they spoke, I told them, if they did not immediately say what they wanted, I would fire at them. At this they seemed more alarmed than ourselves, and told us that the Maître d'hôtel had charged us four livres too little in the account; which we accordingly paid them, with something for themselves, and were happy the business turned out no worse. This alarm over, we reached Calais without any fresh one.—After taking some refreshment, finding the wind favourable, we hired a packet, and determined to pursue our way to England

land immediately. We attended the officers who were to search our baggage, and a fee of five guineas saved us much trouble: the man to whom we presented it, gave us a note to a person at Dover, who would not, on the receipt of it, he said, suffer any thing to be taken from us. The gentlemen of the army, of which there were many on the quay of Calais, were so struck with Mrs. Baddeley, that a crowd of them escorted us to the packet, and very politely handed us in. On leaving the harbour, we were a little alarmed at the vessel striking on the bar; but no accident happened, and we reached Dover after a pleasant voyage of three hours. When we were landed, we had recourse to the person to whom
our

our letter was addressed, which we gave him, accompanied with a *douceur* of six guineas, which he took, and assured us every thing should be safe. Our trunks were taken to the Custom-house, but returned to us undisturbed, as they received them. We had now been up two nights, and were very much fatigued; but, as we found our servants able to pursue their journey, we determined to make the best of our way to Bright-helmstone. We reached Tunbridge at ten the same night; and the next day, desirous of seeing the place before we left it, we walked round to the shops, in one of which we saw Miss Blace of St. James's street, Mrs. Baddeley's milliner.

liner. She told us she had seen Mrs. Abington, from whom she learned we were at Paris, and presumed we had brought over the most fashionable parts of the female dress. On our saying we had, she asked to be indulged with a sight of them. To gratify her, we ordered our boxes and trunks to be fetched, and showed her what we had purchased; and it proved a very unfortunate circumstance for us; for we were noticed by some custom-house officers, who thought proper to seize our boxes and trunks, and all their contents, wearing-apparel and all: they would not leave us a single article, saying, that as our clothes were found in bad company, they must share the same fate; so

that we lost the whole of our baggage : and, I am sorry to say, Miss Brace sustained a loss also ; for her house was searched on this occasion ; and having some lace to make up, the whole was taken from her, to the amount of two hundred pounds. The only articles Mrs. Baddeley preserved, were her diamonds, which she had secreted, for fear of robbers on the road. The men had a good booty in this seizure ; for we dared not apply for our clothes, lest we should be called upon for the penalty, which they threatened us with levying. I was very unhappy at this accident ; but Mrs. Baddeley met it with great unconcern, her only distress being the loss of the fashions. We then set off
from

from Tunbridge much lighter than we came, and reached Brighthelmstone at four in the morning.

The reader will naturally determine with us, that we made a very foolish journey of this, a great deal of trouble, a great deal of fatigue, and a great deal of money spent to very little purpose; for we brought very little of the five hundred pounds back, which we took with us. We had seen Paris, 'tis true; but that was all; and a dear sight it was. Under an idea of furnishing ourselves with things at a cheap rate, we lost every article we bought.

On knocking our servants up, we were told Mr. Hanger was there, and had been in the house a fortnight. He came down and welcomed us home, but received no answer from me. I ordered a fire in my chamber, took Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, and begged she would go up with me : she did, and we went to bed, tired and jaded enough ; for we had never stopped on the road from Paris to Brighthelmstone, except the night we lay at Tunbridge, but to take some little refreshment, for about a quarter of an hour, sometimes, where we changed horses. Mrs. Baddeley did not say a great deal to Mr. Hanger, who ran on in his usual foolish style ; and, when we were in bed, I represented
to

to her the impudence and effrontery of his conduct, in coming into our house in our absence; said it would draw on her the censure of her friends; and told her, if she did not tell him to leave the house, as soon as she was up, or suffer me to do it, I would absolutely leave her, and go to town that day: she promised she would, and declared it was unknown to her that he was there, for he had no leave from her. We did not rise till near two o'clock, when we found a packet of letters from Lord Melbourne and others. Breakfast was ordered in the dining-room, when Gaby made his appearance, biting his nails, and hanging down his head like a great school-boy. Mrs. Baddeley addressed

him in a very spirited manner. "I am
"surprised," says she, "Mr. Hanger,
"at your conduct in coming to this
"house, as if it was your own. On
"what authority have you presumed to
"take this liberty? Not from any I
"ever gave you; and I must, and do
"insist upon it, that you immediately
"leave it. I have been by you, Sir,
"made the ridicule of all my friends,
"and much more so of Mrs. Steele,
"my best friend and benefactor, whom
"I have faithfully promised never to
"speak to you any more. What will
"Lord Melbourne say, when he hears
"of it?" Hanger gave her no an-
swer; on which she told him, he must
either quit the house, or she would.

He

He begged to be permitted to say a few words to her alone; and I rising from my seat, but with no intent to leave the room, Mrs. Baddeley declared she would have no private conversation with him, and requested me not to leave her, for she was exasperated at his conduct beyond measure. “If you have
“any thing to say, Sir,” says she,
“say it instantly; for I am determined
“not to continue with you.” At this, pretending to be affected, he took out his handkerchief to wipe his eyes, and said he could not express his sorrow at her treatment of him, which he did not expect, after what had passed before she went to France. This, she told him, should be explained; that he should not
insinuate

insinuate things of her, which were untrue; that she would keep his secrets no longer, and would acquaint Mrs. Steele with every thing that passed. “Did
“you not threaten,” says she, “on your
“knees, that you would instantly put
“an end to your life, with a large
“knife, which you had then in your
“hand, if I did not promise to con-
“tinue with you? Did you not say,
“that you was a distracted man, and
“had no peace night nor day; that you
“wished some friend would put a pe-
“riod to your existence; that you could
“not live without me, and much more
“to the same purpose? This language,
“the knife, and the fright you put me
“in, so alarmed me, that I would have
“promised

“promised any thing: I then foolishly
 “told you I would occasionally see
 “you, though I never designed it; and
 “you made me swear I would go to
 “Paris to meet you, which, to get rid
 “of you, I *did* swear, though I now
 “repent it. To keep my oath I went,
 “but not to gratify any wishes of
 “yours. I promised myself much
 “pleasure in going there, as my design
 “was to retaliate for all your past
 “treatment, and leave you as you did
 “me, when you was sensible of the di-
 “stresses of my mind on your account.
 “My intent was to mortify you; and
 “I will honestly confess I was hurt be-
 “yond measure to find you gone. I
 “kept this a secret; for, had my friend
 “Mrs.

“ Mrs. Steele known I went to give you
“ the meeting, I might have gone by
“ myself. Don’t persuade yourself that
“ any regard for you took me there ;
“ a wish to see the country, and an op-
“ portunity of revenging myself, were
“ my sole motives.”

During all this he sat biting his nails,
and hanging down his head, as before ;
on which Mrs. Baddeley turned to me,
saying, “ My dear, shall we go up and
“ dress ?” We accordingly left him,
without a word, to his private thoughts ;
and, when we were in our chamber,
Mrs. Baddeley said, “ I am now more
“ happy than I can express myself. I
“ have given Mr. Gaby his own.—Did
“ I speak

“ I speak to him properly ? ” I told her, “ Very properly, and in the manner he deserved ; and after this declaration of yours, if he does not leave the house, I shall talk to him in a manner he will not like. ” Presently, we heard the door shut with great fury ; and on inquiring who made that noise below, were told it was Mr. Hanger, who was gone out, and pulled the door after him with violence. He went and took lodgings, and soon after sent for such things as he had brought into our house with him, which we cheerfully sent him. A note was presently after brought, with his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, begging the permission of one hour’s conversation with

with her, on the subject of that morning. Her answer was, that she had an engagement which put it out of our power to receive his visit at all. This mortified his pride so much, that he wrote her a letter, containing the dictates of a madman, more than any thing else. Mrs. Baddeley sealed it up in a piece of blank paper, and sent it back to him. On the receipt of it from our servant, he opened it; and when he saw nothing but his own letter, he threw it into the fire, and swore, and said, "Very well, Sir." We now began to read our letters. There was one to Mrs. Baddeley from her mother, saying, she was better; and one from Lord Melbourne.

The

The next day a hair-dresser was sent for, to cut our hair. The fellow prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley, who had beautiful hair, to have it cut close to her head, upon the crown, and have that part of her head shaved; under a notion that it would grow as thick again: and the hair-dresser saying he could make her a braid, that no one would know it was cut off, she consented to let the fellow cut it clean away, as he proposed. The hair he left, he put up in papers, and said he had a braid at home, exactly of her colour, the price of which was five guineas: he fetched it, taking Mrs. Baddeley's long hair with him, which I suppose he made into a braid, and sold for five guineas more. On his return

he dressed her, and would have persuaded me to have had mine cut in the same way, but I would not consent. I mention this circumstance, to prevent my fair readers from ever being imposed upon in a similar way; for Mrs. Baddeley's hair, to the day of her death, was never half so good as before it was out.

Lord Pigot breakfasted with us, and told us that Mr. Hanger's behaviour was the topick of conversation through all Brighthelmstone, and that he was sorry to tell Mrs. Baddeley, she had been blamed in his hearing. He said Mr. Hanger boasted that she followed him to France; for that, poor thing! she could

could not forget her old partiality for him; that he was sorry he had missed her; but that, on her return, he should live with her as before; in consequence of which he had taken possession of her house, and should make life as easy to him as he could. "Your friends," continued he, "though they blame you for your folly in submitting, can't help pitying you." Mrs. Baddeley begged his Lordship would permit her to justify herself to him, and the rest of her friends; and related all that the reader has been made acquainted with, which, on a candid hearing, Lord Pigot was pleased to say, was commendable.

On his Lordship's leaving us, we went to Storrington, to pay a visit to Sir Cecil Bishop, found him at home, and dined with him. On our return, we learned Mr. Hanger had called and left his compliments.

We can now to think of going to London, and fixed on the next day for that purpose. In our way there, we were struck, as we passed a common, with the neatness of a cottage, by a wood side; and stopping to look at it, three pretty children presented themselves to our view. We got out, made an apology for going in, and saw an old woman in the corner, whom we found to be their grandmother. They seemed
very

very poor, but every thing was uncommonly neat and clean. On asking for the mother of the children, we were told, she was in bed above, and had just lain-in. We desired to see her, and were shown up into a decent chamber, where lay a very pretty woman, and her young child. She asked us if we would accept of a glass of wine and a piece of cake. We sat down, entered into conversation with the mother, (who we found had lain-in three days) and, as the child had not been christened, begged we might be sponsors for it, and that the infant, being a girl, might be called Sophia Elizabeth. We gave the poor woman a guinea each, and took leave of her; promising to call again when we came next that

way. She received our present with tears of gratitude, which amply repaid us for what we bestowed upon her.

Whilst we were looking out of the window, at the inn where we stopped to dine, we saw four men who were deserters, hand-cuffed, and at that time conducting to their regiment. We desired them to stop, gave them and their guards something to drink, and Mrs. Baddeley gave each of the prisoners five shillings. Good offices, they say, seldom remain ungratified; therefore Mrs. Baddeley experienced, a self-gratification, I cannot take upon me to say; but,

but, as she could have no other motive in her beneficent acts, they must have proceeded from an innate sensibility and feeling for the distresses of others; which, to a benevolent mind, is amply repaid by the gratitude of the receiver.

On our arrival in Grafton-street, we found several notes; among these, one from Captain Fawkner, to Mrs. Baddeley, saying he was at Richmond upon duty, and should be happy to see her, if some good performers then at the Theatre would be any temptation to draw her there. She took no notice of the invitation at this time, but did not forget it.

We

We were now at home, after a ramble of some time, and spent our evening together, talking over the occurrences of the last month, with a placid satisfaction, that no place, but home with quiet, affords. Home, however, was at present something new to us; and we determined to spend a week here, with our birds and our cats; for no one knew of our being in town. Mrs. Baddeley was very fond of cats, and had one Grimal-kin, which she called Cuddle, and which she would often take long journeys with her: and this cat was as much inquired about, by those who courted her favour, as herself. She had also a favourite canary-bird, which she brought all the way from Paris to Brighthelmstone, in a hand-

a handkerchief, and from thence to Grafton-street.

To show her attention to her cat, she took it with us once on a journey to Portsmouth, when we travelled with post-horses: the boys, through carelessness, overturned us, and dragged the coach some way before they stopped, so as to break off the door and the pannels on one side, and tumbled us all out in the road; for the coach was full. As Providence would have it, no bones were broken, though I was so much bruised in my shoulder, as to make it necessary to apply to a surgeon at the next town: and we were all more or less hurt, but the cat. Mrs. Baddeley, in the midst of
all

all this, got up and cried after her Cud-
dle, fearful he was hurt, and paid no
attention to any of us, but ran after him,
to catch him, saying, had his bones been
broken, she should have gone distracted.

We next morning went to see Mrs.
Snow, whom we found much recovered;
and on my wishing to go to Hammer-
smith, to see what was done to my
house there, having left workmen in it,
Mrs. Baddeley gave a private order to
the coachman, to drive us to Richmond,
and on the road began a long story,
which I had never before heard, of her
family; and being full of humour, and
both of us in high spirits, I laughed so
immoderately all the way, that I did not
notice

notice where I was, till we arrived at Kew-bridge, and stopped to pay the toll. Surprised, I cried out, "Good
" God! where has the coachman brought
" us to?" "Oh," said Mrs. Baddeley,
" a little round, I suppose, for a ride;
" and, as we are here, let us go and ask
" Mrs. Adams how she does:" (who
was an acquaintance of ours, that lived
in Kew-lane.) She received us politely,
and pressed us to stay dinner, which I
was prevailed on to do; and after dinner
Mrs. Baddeley proposed going to Richmond Theatre, where Captain Fawkner
joined us, as by accident. Whether he
had any private intimation, from her, of
her coming, I cannot say; but the letter
ter

ter she received the night before, never struck me till that moment. The play was poorly performed; and wishing to be in town before it was late, I desired her not to stay the entertainment; which was readily agreed to. We were handed into the carriage by Captain Fawkner, who got in with us, and instructed the coachman to drive to the Castle, where he said he had ordered a supper; having learned from Mr. Hobart, that Mrs. Baddeley was at the Theatre, and expecting the pleasure of her company. I was unwilling to go; but Mrs. Baddeley seemed bent upon it, and I could not prevent her.

Captain

Captain Fawkner, who now made no secret of his attachment to Mrs. Baddeley, took uncommon pains to convince her of it. He provided a very elegant supper, with a choice service of fruit, and the best wines the house afforded; and Mrs. Baddeley seemed not a little pleased at this interview. I found myself disagreeably situated, as to keep a restraint on Mrs. Baddeley, was at times a very difficult task. I should wish to speak more favourably of her; but, as I profess to write the truth, and leave a considerate public to make allowance for her frailties, I must say, that she would have forsaken all the world, to have taken up with Captain Fawkner; and he talked of protection,

and laying his little fortune at her feet. I requested him to desist from such conversation, and argued with him, but to no purpose; for neither of them attended to me. I then told her, she was certainly her own mistress, to act as she pleased, and might remain so; for I would order a chaise to carry me to town, and leave them to themselves. At this Mrs. Baddeley's prudence took the alarm, and she said she would go with me. Mr. Fawkner was then on his knees, soliciting her stay, and I insisting on going to town. This put some little stop to the conversation. It was now one in the morning; and Mrs. Baddeley said, "Let you and I, my dear Steele, "sleep here to-night, and Captain Fawk-
"ner

“ner shall go directly.” “Certainly,” adds he, “if you will oblige Mrs. Baddeley by staying, I will instantly wish you a good night.” To get rid of him, I agreed; and he kept his word, and left us. We ordered a fire in our chamber, and slept together. I reasoned with her a great deal on her behaviour, and frequently reminded her of what she promised her mother; but she said, Captain Fawkner was such a beautiful fellow, and his manner so engaging, that she loved him beyond expression, and should be happy to give up all her pride, and live with him on a shilling a day; that she had long loved him, and was not ashamed to own it; and that, was her ruin to be the consequence,

she was determined to see him, as often as he would do her the favour to call upon her. "It must be then," replied I, "when I am not in the way; for he shall never come into a house of mine, or into any one where I live." "Oh! dear Mrs. Steele, don't say so!" returns she, taking me round the neck, and crying bitterly. Now, as I never could bear to see her unhappy, I begged of her to be pacified, and hear reason. "No reason," cries she, "will ever erase him from my heart; and therefore I am doomed to misery. I am almost afraid and ashamed to confess to you, that I have loved Captain Fawkner these six months, and have carried on a secret correspondence, un-
observed

“ observed by you, the whole time: many
 “ a happy hour have we enjoyed toge-
 “ ther; and every thing he asked of me,
 “ I have cheerfully granted. Betty,
 “ my maid, has been privy to his coming
 “ at all times; and when I have com-
 “ plained of a head-ache, and have lain
 “ down, she has admitted him to my
 “ chamber. In short,” says she, “ my
 “ dear Mrs. Steele, having confessed this,
 “ I have nothing more to keep from you;
 “ and if you debar me from seeing him,
 “ you will make me wretched.” As I
 found reasoning with her only served
 to make her miserable, I thought the
 best way would be to drop the conver-
 sation at present, and contrive it, in fu-
 ture, if possible, that she should not see

him. Had the maid been with me, I would have discharged her; but she had married the footman and was gone. We ordered breakfast; and Captain Fawkner, as soon as we came down, made his appearance with all the elegance that dress could add to his person; though, to do him justice, he wanted not the ornament of dress to set him off. Nature had been bountiful to him, both in features and person; and he was a man whom the ladies much admired. Yet this did not seem to give him any consequence in himself, as is not much the case with many handsome men. He was easy in his manners, and generous in his way of thinking, except in his conduct to one lady of rank, with whom
he

he boasted of a connexion to Mrs. Baddeley, as I mentioned before.

After breakfast they took a walk into the garden; and in the mean time I ordered the carriage, and when it was ready, sent for Mrs. Baddeley, who came directly, and said, if agreeable to me, Captain Fawkner would take a ride with us to Kew-bridge. As I made no reply, she begged him to step in. When he had taken his seat, he addressed me with, "My dear Mrs. Steele, "how have I offended you, that you "seem so displeased at my happiness?" "My conduct, Sir," replied I, "requires no explanation: the im-
"propriety

“propriety of yours and Mrs. Bad-
“deley’s, is between yourselves; there-
“fore the least that is said on the
“subject the better, particularly as I
“know Mrs. Baddeley’s mind per-
“fectly.” He was pleased to say many
civil things to me, but without effect:
I made no answer to any of them; and
when we came to Kew-bridge, he took
his leave, and walked back to Rich-
mond. “Now,” says Mrs. Baddeley,
“with your leave, we will go to Ham-
“mersmith.” “Provided,” returned
I pettishly, “that Mr. Coachman has
“no private orders to the contrary.”
She then owned, she had ordered him
to take us to Richmond; for she was de-
termined

terminated to see the dear fellow, if possibly she could.

On our arrival at Hammer-smith-hope, we found the improvements going on, but not completed. A large bow window was made in the front of the house, with a flat leaden roof and ballustrades, and a long room built over the kitchen for a laundry. We found twenty men at work, and made them happy, by ordering them a dinner at the public house.

On our return to Grafton-street, we had a visit from Mr. Dibden. This gentleman was in the musical line, and played Mungo at Drury-lane Theatre:
he

he was a person of some merit in his profession, but, like many more men of merit, in distressed circumstances. He drank tea with us. The design of this visit was to borrow a little cash, which he had, as soon as asked for. This kindness of Mrs. Baddeley's to Mr. Dibden was ill bestowed, as I shall have an occasion to mention hereafter, in a matter that does him very little honour.

Not knowing well how to dispose of ourselves the next day, Mrs. Baddeley, who, though of a timid disposition, did not want for resolution occasionally, expressed a wish of going to set up all night in a house at Wandsworth, which had the reputation of being haunted,
and

and had been untenanted for many years; and asked me to accompany her. I was unwilling at first; but she put me on my mettle, by saying I was afraid, and that my conscience was not so good as hers; and I consented to go. Her plan was, to take wine and provision with us, to comfort and regale us in the night; and to go there in the day-time, that we might procure wood and coals to burn and keep us warm. She had frequently heard, she said, of ghosts and spirits, but had no idea of any such things; and, if there was a hobgoblin that infested that house, she would endeavour to see it. My opinion was, that if we went, it would be better to disguise ourselves, than to have it known

known who we were. She fell into the same opinion; and we sent our servants from town to Hammer-smith, to prepare for this piece of folly. When we got to Hammer-smith, we dressed ourselves in such a manner as to resemble Gypsies, more than any other character; and our five maid-servants had enough to do to procure bad clothes, sufficient for the purpose; for our three men and five maids were to be in disguise also, and of the party, lest we might want protection. We hired two strange watermen to take us there, and to wait and bring us back, if we stayed all night. These two fellows were, in all appearance, as beggarly as ourselves. After putting provisions and wine into the
boat,

boat, we were ready; but Mrs. Baddeley, to complete her appearance and mine, rubbed both our faces and hands with walnut-rind; and such figures were we, as were never seen before. Thus equipped, we went all together, ten of us in number, through our garden into this boat, unseen by any one. We landed at a by-place near a mill, on this side Wandsworth, at the side of a large house belonging to some gentleman, at whose gate stood a young woman-servant, about twenty years of age. She called to me, and said, "Harkee, mistress, can you tell fortunes?" "Yes," "my dear," said I; "and I will tell you yours, if you will cross my hand with a piece of silver." "I will give

“you, or your partner,” returns she,
“sixpence, if you will tell me mine.”

To this Mrs. Baddeley made answer,

“Give me the sixpence, and I will tell

“you.” The money being given, Mrs.

Baddeley took her by the hand, and,

after a minute examination, said, “You

“are in love with a false-hearted man,

“who is a servant.” “That’s true,” said

the girl, “for he loves another in my

“master’s house, better than he does

“me.” This was enough for Baddeley;

she ran on, and enlarged on it. The

girl was very much pleased with what

she heard, and said, “Here’s our house-

“maid a-coming, she is the girl my

“sweetheart is fond of.” This other

wench came up, and asked us to tell her

fortune :

fortune: I undertook to be her prophetess; and, from the hint I had received, as other fortune-tellers do, I managed her well, by saying, “She would have
“the man she loved, who was a servant
“in that house; that he had no liking
“for any other woman, though he might
“pay his court to another; that she
“was his delight, and would be his
“wife in three months; would live well,
“and have seven children by him.”
She gave me a shilling, and wished I would tell the footmen their fortunes: I told her we should be this way again to-morrow, and left her, talking with Baddeley such gibberish as led the girls to think we dealt with the devil. When we were out of sight, we enjoyed this

adventure exceedingly. We were all in the height of merriment; for, in this expedition, we put our servants under no restraint. Meeting an old man in the lane, we inquired whereabout the haunted house stood? The old man fell on his knees, said his prayers, and looked frightened at us all. He told us, he was only a poor pig-killer, and hoped we would not hurt him. To make him happy, we gave him the eighteen-pence we had earned at the great house, saying we had just picked it up. He seemed thankful for it, but I believe more to get clear from such a tribe. All the persons we met with, stared at us prodigiously, as well they might; but none could give us any information

relative

relative to the haunted house, though we inquired of several. At last we met a pretty decent woman, and made the same inquiry of her; and she told us, she lived adjoining to it; that we might go through her garden into the garden belonging to the house, and if we would follow her, we had not more than half a mile to go. This pleased us both; for we began to lag, having walked more than two hours up and down, and could hear of no such place till now. This woman, we understood afterwards, had met the pig-killer, who advised her by no means to go the road she did, as there was a parcel of vagrants in the way, "Though," says he, "as they gave me eighteen-pence which they

313W L 3 " found,

“found, I scarce knew what to make
“of them.” This intelligence, however, put the woman upon the look-out. She talked to us all the way, and bringing us down to the river-side, and pointing to a house which she said was hers, we followed her in, and she said,
“Come, good folks, shall we drink
“together?” “Yes,” returned we,
“with all our hearts; and we will treat
“with some beer.” “Well, then,” says she, “let’s go up stairs; there is
“room for us all.” Up we went, and joined our money, three-pence a-piece, to send for beer and bread and cheese. The woman then told us, she had a girl that would give us a good song, and she would bring her in; and as there
were

were but three chairs in the room, the greater part of us sat down upon the floor. The woman, bringing in a quartern loaf, some cheefe, and a gallon of beer, with two knives, said, "Come, " good folks, cut away; you are as " welcome as if at home." She was a clever woman, and carried on the farce with us well. The girl came in, and, after she had ate and drank heartily, began to sing, and with such a voice as struck us all with admiration. I was fearful Baddeley would forget the character she was playing, so transported was she with the girl's harmonious pipe. She sang us three songs, and we then asked the woman to show us to the haunted house. "Oh!" says she, "this
" is

“is it: there is not a house in the pa-
 “rish haunted with spirits I wish to
 “get rid of, more than mine; for I
 “have nine children and four appren-
 “tices, belonging to my husband, who
 “is a punt-cutter, and I have more
 “than I can well do to feed them;
 “therefore, make yourselves easy, for
 “there is no house in this parish haunted
 “but mine.” We could not help
 laughing at the woman, who had too
 much cunning and wit for us all. She
 had got out of one of the watermen,
 whom she knew, where he had brought
 us from, though we had not the least
 suspicion of it at that time, and had
 of course played us off in our own way.
 Finding we were *smoked*, as the phrase
 is,

is, and it beginning to grow late, we thought it best to return home, especially as the business we set out upon could not be effected; for we could hear of no haunted house in that place. Having found the watermen had brought the boat near this place, we took leave of the woman, gave the girl a shilling amongst us, and embarked afresh. Mrs. Baddeley was much disappointed; but, on the whole, the day was not unpleasantly spent.

On our return to Hammersmith, we new-dressed ourselves, but could not take out the stains from our faces: we tried a variety of things, and could not thoroughly clear our skins for some days.

days. A few days after, a woman called on us in Grafton-street, and wished to see the lady's servant. "What lady?" says the man. "Your mistress," returns the woman; "why, sure, you can't but know me? Have you so soon forgot the haunted house?" "For God's sake," says the man, "not a word of that here! Come down into the kitchen. It was only a frolick of mine, and my fellow servants; and was it known to our ladies, we should lose our places." "No, no," says the woman, "there is little fear of that; the ladies had their frolick as well as you; and I beg the favour of seeing them. I shall not mention a word that passed yesterday; I only want

“ want to acquaint them with some-
 “ thing of consequence.” The man
 took her down into the kitchen, gave
 her a glass of Madeira, spread a cloth
 on the table, and set some cold meat
 before her. Whilst she was taking re-
 freshment, he came up and acquainted
 us with what had passed. We consi-
 dered a little how we should act, and
 then determined to see her: accordingly
 she was brought up; and when she saw
 us, dressed as we were then, and con-
 sidered the appearance we made at
 Wandsworth, she could scarcely keep
 her countenance. She began with say-
 ing, “ She hoped we would pardon her
 “ for the liberty she had now taken,
 “ but that she was induced by two
 “ motives

“ motives to wait on us; to beg we
“ would, if possible, get her child upon
“ the stage, and to acquaint us with a
“ misfortune that had happened to her
“ this morning, that of her landlord’s
“ having seized her goods for eight
“ pounds, being one year’s rent; and,
“ if she did not pay him in a day or
“ two, her bed would be sold from
“ under her, and her children, with her
“ husband, be turned out of doors.”

At this she shed many tears, having no more to give her landlord than three pounds, which he would not take.

We then asked her, “ If she had three
“ guineas more to give him, whether
“ she thought he would be satisfied?”

She replied, “ Not without the whole
“ rent.”

“rent.” Upon this, we said, “Come,
 “tell us honestly how you found us out,
 “and we will help you to pay your
 “rent.” She then told us the story of
 the pig-killer, and our giving him some
 money, and the observations she made
 on us when first she met us; and my
 having on, with that squalid garb, a
 pair of black fatten slippers: these cir-
 cumstances convinced her we were not
 in reality what we appeared to be; and
 when she went to order the beer, she
 saw one of the watermen who brought
 us, whom she had known from a child;
 and he told her who we were, and where
 we lived; and that she took the first
 opportunity of waiting on us, without
 having said a word of what passed to

any one. She had often heard, she said, of the many charitable acts done by us, which induced her to apply; and she assured us, we could not do a more humane act than by relieving her. Well, on a promise that she would keep this frolick of ours to herself, we gave her five guineas; and she was very thankful. Notwithstanding our bounty to this woman, we had our fears that the story would get abroad, and find its way into a news-paper: but we were happily disappointed; we never heard of it afterwards. Often, however, did we see this woman, who never went away without a present.

We

We were now under the necessity of making fresh clothes, having lost great part of our wardrobe in our blessed tour to France. It was a rule with us to make all our gowns at home. Mrs. Baddeley and I cut them out, and our servants made them; we set them all to work, and were soon new dressed. The post now brought letters from Brighthelmstone; from Lord Melbourne, Lord Pigot, and Mr. Hanger.

Lord Pigot's letter was to know, if possible, when we meant to return to Brighthelmstone; and Mrs. Baddeley wrote his Lordship word, that she de-
M 2 signed

signed being there the Tuesday following (this being Friday).

As to Mr. Hanger's, it was only the same story over again, lamenting his misfortunes; telling her, he should be in town on Friday, and leave it in a day or two after for Paris; in order to be far enough, if possible, to forget his misery. He was here almost as soon as his letter, and called on us that evening; but we were denied. He told the servant, he knew we were at home, but that was no matter. After this, we heard no more of him till he set off for Paris; but, to accommodate and help him on his journey, I let him have my horse, which
he

he took over to France with him, and never returned; nor has he ever paid a shilling of the many sums I lent him out of my own pocket, though he knows I have often wanted it. This fact I dare him to disprove. He was also mean enough to borrow money of Mrs. Baddeley, to carry to Almack's to game with; and never returned her a guinea, even when she was distressed for one. Mrs. Baddeley had nearly lent him, upon one occasion, four hundred pounds; and he would have had it, had I not prevented it, by saying, "I had that day paid it away;" for she left her money chiefly in my possession. He began to interrogate me on this, and asked me to whom I had paid it? I told him, "It was

“ a question he was not authorised to
“ ask, nor should I resolve him.” We
proceeded then to high words. “ He
“ supposed,” he said, “ I had lent it to
“ some gambler;” and on my saying
I knew no gambler but himself, he
thought proper rudely to contradict
me, and declare that a certain gentle-
man, a Physician, a valuable and par-
ticular friend of mine, was the greatest
gambler in all England. On my as-
suring him I would inform the gentle-
man of what he said, without any other
provocation, he gave me such a blow
on the mouth, as beat out one of my
double teeth. Declaring I would make
an example of him for this, and pro-
secute him, he begged my pardon, and
would

would submit to any thing, if I would forgive him; for that the blow was given in the heat of passion. I told him he should never receive my forgiveness; though Mrs. Baddeley was mean-spirited enough to put up with the many blows she received from him, he should find the contrary in me. For he has beat Mrs. Baddeley, at times, when he has been alone with her, that I have seen her arms black, from wrist to shoulder, and her neck also. But to return to my narrative.

Captain Fawkner called to pay us a morning visit, but we were denied. He requested his name might be delivered on our return, and said, as he had a little
business

business in Bond-street, he would call again, and possibly the ladies might be then at home. The servant brought up Captain Fawkner's message, and Mrs. Baddeley begged to see him: I remonstrated against it; but she was so pressing, that it was of no use to deny her: he returned, and staid dinner with us. During his stay, Mr. Robert Conway, and Mr. William Hanger, called in company: they were admitted, and were with me an hour; but I made an excuse for their not seeing Mrs. Baddeley. These gentlemen had not been gone five minutes, before Lord Melbourne knocked at the door: seeing him through the window, I let him in, and sent Mrs. Baddeley word of it, who
was

was then with Captain Fawkner. His Lordship was in his boots, said he was that instant come to town, and, though he could not stay five minutes, he had just run to see how we all were. Mrs. Baddeley came now into the parlour, and he began to express how miserable he had been in his absence from her, and that, if he had not met with her in town, he should have set off immediately for Brighthelmstone, in pursuit of her. Having now seen her, he would step home, and be with her again in two hours. After a thousand tender expressions, he left her; and, as soon as he was gone, she said, she must return to Mr. Fawkner. I then told her again of the impropriety of her conduct,

duct, and represented to her how much she laid herself open to *her* servants as well as mine, and pointed out to her many things that might tend to the ruin of her, and the unhappiness of his Lordship and his family. To this she replied, "You are right," and seemed hurried. "I wish Mr. Fawkner was gone; and, if ever he returns to this house, to make my mind uneasy again, I leave you to say what you please to him, and to act as you think proper; provided it is not in my sight or hearing." Captain Fawkner soon after went away; and she promised never to see him again. She now dressed to receive Lord Melbourne, who returned before the two hours, full of love and

and affection ; and, having some letters to write, I left them together. His Lordship continued with her four hours, and then rung the bell, and desired to see me. On my coming into the room, he cried out, " So, Mrs. Steele, I hear
 " you have been the Lord knows
 " where ! Have you not laid out
 " all your cash ?" " No," said I,
 " my Lord." At this, Mrs. Baddeley frowned at me. " Well," said he, " I
 " have put some paper on the table ;
 " if you do not want it now, it will
 " serve you when you do." I left it there, and we entered into chat for about ten minutes, when his Lordship took his leave, saying, he would be with her to-morrow ; but, as he could
 not

not name the hour, hoped Mrs. Baddeley would not go out.

His Lordship was no sooner gone, than Mrs. Baddeley went to the table, and took up the bank-notes, the amount of which was two hundred pounds, saying, he ought to have left more. However, she gave it to me, to place it to account, of which I always kept a regular one of all she received and paid, with copies of all the tradesmen's bills. The originals, with their receipts, I filed, and have them to this day. Her extravagancies and profuseness made this necessary; that, as I kept the money, she might always have recourse to the account, and see how it was

was disposed of. When I talk of profuseness, I adhere only to the truth, which I profess to write, with the strictest minuteness. I could have interspersed this work with occasional adventures which never happened, as many writers of memoirs have done; but I persuade myself, my readers will be better pleased with this simple diary of our proceedings (which, if necessary, I could with a good conscience swear to the truth of, without the least exaggeration or embellishment), than with a fabulous account of things that have no existence but in fancy. Her extravagance at times ran very great lengths, considering the money she received. In one instance, as my books will show, she

laid out, for many days together, not less than three guineas a day, in the article of early flowers ; such as moss-roses, carnations, and others. But this is only a trifle, compared with other things. I have known her go to Mr. King's, the mercer's, and lay out thirty or forty guineas for a sacque and coat of rich winter silk ; and would purchase two or three more, at the same time ; make them up, and not wear them three times before she would give them to her maid. These are known and plain facts. Millinery she would buy in proportion ; for she had every new fashion. I have milliners receipts by me now, to the amount of two thousand pounds, spent in two years and

and a half; and mercers receipts, to a much greater amount; with a list of all other tradesmen's bills, equally extravagant. Linen-drapers bills, at this time, were eight hundred pounds: the jeweller's near four thousand pounds; all in diamonds. In short, there was no end to her expence, in dress and perfumery. It was no use to talk of economy: every thing her fancy could suggest, she would have, if money would purchase it, let the expence be what it would. She once bought a whole piece of very fine muslin, plated with silver leaves; for which she paid forty-eight pounds. Of this she made a masquerade dress, and wore it only one night: the next day she cut it out,

to make up in nonsensical things, to give away to children. And on a masquerade night, though she had a profusion of diamonds of her own, she has hired others, for the use of which, for one night, she has paid fifteen or twenty pounds. I do not wish to say so much of her extravagancies, but think it necessary, that the reader may judge how she disposed of her money. "Light come," they say, "light go." Whether this proverb was applicable to her, I will not say; I would fain persuade myself to believe, that the many good and kind offices she did, arose from a principle of benevolence, and a wish to communicate happiness to others. She was generous, if it
may

may be called generosity, to a fault; for no person could notice or admire a thing she had, but she would give it them directly, let the value be what it would. At times she was rather whimsical; she would one day put up furniture in the house, and next day pull it down, and was always changing. Nothing, either of dress or furniture, pleased her long. We had workmen of some denomination always in the house; such as upholsterers, painters, carpenters, and the like. No certainty of her being in the same mind two days together. Apt to be struck with new faces, in men, though not wickedly so. To dissuade her from this, I have often attempted, but to no purpose. I will

own that my great regard for her, led me into a compliance with some of her extravagancies; for, had I not acquiesced, we should have been eternally at words: as it was, we were very happy, whilst we lived together. I was led, by good-nature, to soothe her into a compliance with what was right; and can with great truth say, had she not been checked in some of her whims and caprices, ten thousand pounds a year would not have paid her bills: and her conduct, blameable as it may appear, would have been ten times worse, had not a little reasonable advice been thrown in her way. With all these faults, she was, as I have observed, not without her good qualities: that

that of being good to her family, was the principal. No poor person did she ever see, but she relieved; nor did she hear of a real distress, in any individual, but her purse was always open to serve them. She was fond of books, and read at all opportunities. Histories and plays were her chief delight; and she was always receiving lessons in music. Dr. Arne, and Mr. Tenducci, constantly attended her; and many other masters. Though she retired from the stage, she still kept up her singing, and improved herself much. We had often morning concerts at our house, with accompaniments, by people of fashion. She was fond of Italian music, and learned many songs in the different operas,

operas, which she sung with great taste and judgement, and took much delight in this kind of amusement. But to resume my history.

Lord Melbourne came again in the evening, and in unusual good humour; threw his hat one way, his cane another, and sat himself down with saying, he was tired to death with prancing about all day with his Betsy a shopping, and wished to lie down to rest himself. Mrs. Baddeley accompanied him; and I saw no more of them till ten the next morning, when he rose, and, saying he fell asleep, and of course staid longer than he designed, sent for a chair, and went home. Mrs. Baddeley told me,
that

that he had made her a number of promises, and, among the rest, that he would settle four hundred pounds a year upon her, as he had done upon Harriet Powel, whom he regularly paid ; and that, from his proposed liberality and kindness, she was determined to be constant to him, and not listen to the application of any man living.

This morning, after his Lordship was gone, came the following note from Captain Fawkner.

“ Captain Fawkner’s best respects
 “ wait on dear Mrs. Baddeley, to in-
 “ quire after her health, and inform
 “ her, he was much mortified at being
 “ debarred

“debarred the pleasure of her company
“yesterday evening; being under the
“disagreeable necessity of going to
“Richmond, hopes he shall be so
“happy as to see her there, and begs
“the favour of a line addressed to him
“there, as soon as convenient. His
“respects to Mrs. Steele.”

Mrs. Baddeley received the note, and said, “Very well;” but declared she would not write a single line in answer, determining to convince me, by her future conduct, that she was sensible of my good advice, and was resolved to profit by it. Lord Melbourne, she said, was to be with her again in the morning; and she would then tell me, before

fore him, of the kind propofal he had made her of a fettlement; and begged me to follow him up, that ſhe might have an opportunity of doing it.

In the morning, Mr. Tenducci came and taught her an Italian ſong, which Signor Vento compoſed purpoſely for her, and for which ſhe paid him twenty guineas. When dreſſed, ſhe ſent for the woollen-draper, in order to chooſe a new riding-habit, and ſome cloth for new liveries: this led me into an additional expence, as I always clothed my man in the ſame livery as hers. Mr. George Hobart, Lord Buckinghamſhire's brother, then joint-manager of the Opera-houſe, called to talk with
us

us about the continuation of our box. This gentleman was one of Mrs. Baddeley's professed admirers, and very much her humble servant, though in a private way: he did not wish his visits to be known; but his esteem was expressed with great sincerity on all opportunities, and no person behaved to her with more honour. She was at all times glad to see him; and he made a point of calling on her as often as he could. She had admission at every rehearsal at the Opera-house, and went always whenever she could spare the time. Whilst she lived on good terms with Mr. Hanger, Mr. Hobart was her confidant, and was a true friend to her on all occasions.

Lord

Lord Melbourne soon after came, and, though not disposed to stay, Mrs. Baddeley led him into conversation, merely to bring on the carpet the settlement he proposed the day before. The matter was mentioned by her; and I told his Lordship, that, if he would do that, he would make Mrs. Baddeley truly happy; for her chief anxiety arose from having no provision for a future day: to which his Lordship replied, “ Well, Mrs. Steele, I will take care
“ of that, and soon; you may depend
“ upon it.” Of course, the subject dropped for the present. He told Mrs. Baddeley, as he was going to Broomfield-Hall (that is his country seat) in a few days, where he was to have a good deal

of company, she might go, if she pleased, to Brighthelmstone. He begged to say a few more words to her alone before he went, and she retired with him for that purpose; and he continued with her three hours.

When he came down again, it was near supper-time; but he went away, desiring me to go up to Mrs. Baddeley, as she had a great head-ache, and was not well. I went up to her, and found her not very well. She thanked me for what I had said in her behalf to Lord Melbourne, and told me he had given her two hundred pounds to pay her expences at Brighthelmstone, and had promised her twenty brilliant pins; and,

and, if I would order them to be made, he would pay for them. I asked her what price she was to go to? She replied, "As showy as they could be made for twenty guineas each." Telling her the twenty would then come to four hundred guineas, she said, "Order then ten only at first, and I will talk to his Lordship about the other ten." After supper, she was rather better. I sent for Mr. Tomkins, the jeweller, in Maiden-lane; gave him orders for ten pins; and, when they were brought home, I paid him two hundred pounds for the same; which Lord Melbourne paid me again, and asked me, why I had not ordered the whole twenty he promised Mrs. Baddeley. I told his Lordship

they were ordered, but these ten were brought home first; by which means Mrs. Baddeley had another ten, and Lord Melbourne paid for them. She always wore two watches, with very valuable trinkets; one was an expensive one; the other a little beautiful French watch, that hung by way of trinket to a chain, set with diamonds, the value of which could not be less than two hundred pounds. She had also, at one time, four brilliant diamond necklaces, the least of which cost three hundred pounds; two were of near double the value each, and the fourth was the one Lord Melbourne paid Mr. Tomkins four hundred and fifty pounds for. She had a pair of beautiful enamelled bracelets,

lets, as large as a half-crown piece, set round with brilliants, which cost a hundred and fifty pounds; a diamond bow, which cost four hundred pounds, and rings out of number; with a pretty sideboard of plate, worth three hundred pounds, besides silver candlesticks. Her house in town was as elegantly furnished as a good taste and money could make it; the walls of her drawing-room were hung with silk curtains, drawn up in festoons, which she had done in imitation of Madame du Barré's room at Versailles, Lewis the Fifteenth's mistress; and every thing proportionably elegant and costly; so that she lived, and made an appearance, equal to a woman of the first rank. Her liveries

were superfine dark blue cloth, lined with scarlet, the edge of which just appeared; scarlet cuffs and collar, with two rows of scolloped silver lace round them; the same round the waistcoat, which was blue; with silver-laced hats. The servants had also undress liveries, and many other emoluments; so that their places were very profitable. I don't remember paying a bill of any consequence, without obliging the receiver of it to give them something; besides the many sums they got from the Nobility that frequented the house, and the card-money, which was divided equally among them all. We kept nine servants, and they were all regularly paid.

Lord

Lord Melbourne fixed the day for his going into the country; at which time it was settled, that we should set off to Brighthelmstone, and return when he returned. On parting with Mrs. Baddeley, he was pleased to say, he had not forgot his promise to take care of his dearest love for life, and on his return would fulfil it; but in this promise, the most material of all, he was pleased to forget his dearest love, and never made the least provision for her, though often reminded of it by me, and intreated by Mrs. Baddeley; yet, in other respects, he was lavish in her favour, and would at all times gratify her utmost wishes, except in the granting of a settlement; and this we were induced to

to think arose merely from neglect and inattention; for he was bountiful to her in the extreme. Often would she say, “My Lord, I wish for such and such a thing, but Mrs. Steele tells me it is extravagant;” and his Lordship would reply, “Pray, Mrs. Steele, say nothing about it: I shall not refuse her sweet face any thing: I beg she may have every thing she wishes for; and if I do not allow a sufficiency for it, tell me, and I will give her more.” Talking therefore of economy was idle; for she would say, “Lord Melbourne has no other desire but to give me every thing I wish for, and I must and will have it; for, as I shall have his love and friendship as long
“as

“ as I live, I shall never want.” Here she was deceived ; as will appear in the sequel ; and I hope it will be a lesson to some of my young readers, to be upon their guard against the treachery and deceptions of man, and learn by the fate of Mrs. Baddeley, in a future day, how much wiser and happier it is to follow the paths of virtue, and study by honest endeavours to live a reputable life, than to enjoy, as she did, for a time, all the splendor and elegance of dissipation, under those faithless connexions, whose object is the gratification of a momentary impulse, which soon cools, and leaves the unhappy female, who depends on them, to lament her folly in bitterness, anguish, and distress.

In

In our way to Brighthelmstone, we called to see our little god-child, with whom we left some presents; and after staying about half an hour, and giving the mother three guineas, we returned to our carriage, and found a Gentleman running to the door, to hand us in: this was the Honourable and handsome Mr. Dillon. Having paid his respects to us, he took his leave.

When we reached our house at Brighthelmstone, our first business was to arrange matters for leaving it; for we were determined to stay no longer than whilst we could discharge it, adjust our affairs, and pack up our things. We sent for Lord Pigot, whom Mrs. Baddeley

deley made a confident, and told him of Lord Melbourne's kind intentions. Lord Pigot gave her the best advice; bad her remember that beauty would not last for ever; and recommended it to her to pursue her pleasures with prudence, and save for a rainy day. Her reply was, "There is time enough for that. I find your Lordship and Mrs. Steele are of the same way of thinking; but, for my part, I will have my frolicks and pleasures, convinced I shall not live to be old. Though open to conviction," continued she, "I am not a child, and don't want advice of this kind. I have talents, and a profession to follow, and, should age come on, shall be in no want of a provision."

“provision.” At this, she burst into tears, and lamented that, in her first outset in life, she had not met with a man who would have treated her as a wife ought to have been; as she should then have lived happily with him, and free from the many hours of remorse she had since experienced. “I too
“well know my faults and my imprudence; but one folly led into another;
“and vanity, which is my greatest failing, encouraged by the attention
“I met with from men of rank and fortune, induced me to accept of those
“offers prudence should have taught me to spurn at. Thus introduced
“into a bad plan of life, necessity kept it up, and I have become a sacrifice
“to

“to my own folly.”—“Come,” says Lord Pigot, “let us say no more upon the subject.”—But she went on, requesting his Lordship to hear her out, as it gave her great relief to convince him she was not ignorant of her faults : “Nay,” says she, “I must confess to your Lordship, that, though in the highest degree of splendor, I often look down and envy the situation of the lowest of my servants, and fancy her far more happy. She earns her bread by her industry, and when her daily work is done, can sit down with a conscience void of remorse, as it is clear from vice. Oh, what pleasure must such a mind enjoy! Many a cottage have I looked on with a

“ wishful eye, and thought the people
“ within, though poor, and perhaps
“ without a chair to sit on, much more
“ happy and contented than I, who
“ passed it in a coach and four, attend-
“ ed with a suite of servants.” Here
her tears interrupted her, and I sympathized with her. Lord Pigot begged her not to dwell on a subject that gave her pain; and made some apology for being the cause of it. To this she said, “ Oh, my Lord!” taking me to her arms, and wetting my face with her tears, “ Here is in this friend, all that
“ is good and great. Would to God I
“ had followed her advice! I might
“ then have enjoyed a peace of mind I
“ am now a stranger to. She placed
“ me

“ me above the world, on a most faithful promise on my part to follow my profession; and, by serving me, even hurt herself.” To repeat further what she said respecting me, might have the appearance of vanity. I loved Mrs. Baddeley as my sister; and I was ever anxious she should act consistently with the rules of virtue and decorum. I may, perhaps, be censured for living with her, after I found there was no reclaiming her; but I had still the hopes of doing it, and whilst there were any hopes, I never gave them up. I was young, like Mrs. Baddeley; and though I could not boast, perhaps, of her share of beauty, I was not, in the early part of my life, without my temptations. But,

I thank God, I had a mind above them all, and conducted myself with that propriety every woman ought; and I call on all those whose names I have mentioned in these volumes, to contradict the assertion if they can, or lay any thing to my charge that is not strictly virtuous.

Lord Pigot found some difficulty to draw Mrs. Baddeley from these self-reflections; and nothing effected it but his telling her a piece of news, then generally talked of at Brighthelmstone, that of a married lady of fashion being caught in an improper situation, by her husband's brother, with a certain Captain, who shall be nameless. Mrs. Baddeley
said,

said, she was much surpris'd at this, as till then she had ever been thought spotless. Lord Pigot said the same; but the fact was as he related it, declaring he had it from the husband's brother. "Well," says Mrs. Baddeley, "I presume she is undone for ever. Her husband will despise her, and the Captain has it not in his power to provide for her."

Lord Pigot leaving us, we walked out upon the Steine, where Mrs. Baddeley, as usual, received the compliments of many of the nobility; even the ladies spoke of her with rapture: "There is that divine face! that beautiful creature!" Others would

cry out, "Here's Mrs. Baddeley:—
"What a sweet woman!" This was
echoed in her ears perpetually, and
frequently put her to the blush. Most
women have some small degree of va-
nity; and there are few, possessed of more
fortitude than she, that could have
avoided showing a little pride upon the
occasion. Mrs. Baddeley never showed
any: she must certainly be pleased at
being spoken well of; but yet, she would
walk about and not seem to notice it.

Determining the next day to leave
the place, we returned home, and pre-
pared for our departure. We stopped
at the cottage, as we passed, to see our
god-child; and Lord Pigot asking to
see

see the infant also, we all got out. His Lordship, with his usual good-nature, talked to the woman, said many kind things to her, and declared, if he had known it, he should have been happy to have stood god-father to so sweet a child; then, taking out his purse, he gave the mother five guineas. The poor woman, with tears of gratitude, curtesied, and could only curtesy, for her tears flowed so fast as to stop her utterance. When she was able to speak, she expressed herself in so polite a manner, for so poor a woman, that it struck his Lordship, who begged her to say no more, and assured her it should not be the last time of his calling, or sending to her. On our quitting the house,
we

we bestowed our mite upon the grandmother, and pursued our journey. Lord Pigot expressed himself highly pleased with the neatness and cleanliness of the place, the beauty of the children, and the address of the mother, which was so far beyond any thing he had reason to expect, when he first alighted, that he talked of nothing else all the way to Stenning, where his Lordship insisted on our dining. This dinner, with coffee, detained us late; and Mrs. Baddeley, wishing to call on Sir Cecil Bishop in her way, in hopes of getting some game to carry to town, proposed our staying at Stenning all night. I consenting, Lord Pigot continued with us till eight, and

and then returned in his chaise and four to Brighthelmstone.

At seven the next morning, we set off for Storrington, found Sir Cecil at home, and happy to see us; he pressed us to stay dinner, but we declined. After filling our carriage with game and fruit, we left him and got safe to London.

On reaching home, we found letters from Captain Fawkner, and Captain Crawford his friend, and one from Mr. R. Conway. Sir Thomas Mills had called, and begged us to let him know, as soon as we come to town, as he had some matter of importance to communicate.

nicate. Curious to learn what this was, we sent him word, the next day, of our arrival. On the receipt of our note he came; and this matter of importance, was only an invitation to dine with him and some friends, the next day, which we were pressed to accept. Mr. Henry Hobart, brother to the Honourable George Hobart, called now, to pay Mrs. Baddeley for some tickets he had at her last benefit. He said, as did all the men, a great many civil things to her; but she turned a deaf ear to them, and talked of the opera. He wished, he said, to confer with her on a subject very different to the opera, and would wait for an opportunity that would be

be more pleasing to her. When he was gone, we ordered the coach, and took an airing into Hyde-Park, where Lord Palmerston joined us, and hoped he should be admitted to see us, if he called the next morning. On our return home, we found Lord Melbourne.

Among the rest of Mrs. Baddeley's visitants, Lord Lyttelton called, with a gentleman, to pay a morning visit, whom he introduced as a Mr. Johnson. He made a thousand apologies for neglecting so long to pay his respects to us, and begged permission to wait on us that evening to the opera; having in the course of conversation said, we were
going

going there. We thanked his Lordship, but told him we were engaged with Lord Pigot and his two daughters. He said, he was rather unfortunate in the disappointment, but would take no denial for the next opera, when we agreed to go with him. He and his friend then left us, but they were not gone two hours before a servant brought the following letter.

“ Dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ Pardon me for my presumption in addressing you by line, to request the favour of being permitted to do myself the honour to call, and communicate something of great consequence.

“ sequence. Your compliance will be
“ esteemed an inexpressible satisfaction
“ to,

“ Dear Madam,

“ Your most obedient,

“ Humble servant,

“ George Johnson.”

Brook-street,

Grosvenor-square,

Saturday, three o’Clock.

Mrs. Baddeley returned the following
answer:

“ Sir,

“ I received your favour. My
“ engagements at present put it out of
“ my power to receive your communi-
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“ cation in person. If you will com-
“ mit it to paper, you may rely on an
“ answer, should such communication
“ require it.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your humble servant,

“ Sophia Baddeley.”

Saturday, four o'clock.

Mrs. Baddeley's curiosity was now awake again; she could not conceive what Mr. Johnson had to say: I told her, my opinion was, to profess himself among the list of her admirers. “ That
“ can't be,” says she, “ for he is very
“ handsome, and I am certain can-
“ not be without his favourite: how-
“ ever, don't be uneasy, Steele; I
“ neither

“neither care for him, nor what he has
 “to communicate; but, must own, I
 “think him preferable in person to
 “Mr. Dillon, who is so much talked
 “of.”

Being dressed for the opera, Lord Pigot called on us, with two young ladies, whom he introduced as his children. It was Madame Heinel's benefit, and a crowded house it was. Though these two young ladies were natural children, his affection and attention to them were not the less. Indeed, those who knew his Lordship, will join with me in saying, that he was not only an affectionate and indulgent parent, but a noble and generous friend, and a libe-

ral benefactor to the distressed. After Lord Pigot was gone, and whilst we waited in the room for our carriage, Lord Lyttelton addressed us; told Mrs. Baddeley, that she had captivated his friend, who was like a madman since he saw her; and that, indeed, he did not wonder at it, when not only he, but all the world were so much enamoured with her lovely person. He declared his own love and regard in very passionate terms, which, I have the pleasure to say, she did not notice, but said her heart was engaged, and begged he would desist from such conversation.

On our reaching home, we found Mr. Johnson had called, and left word
he

he could not write what he wished to say, and would do himself the honour to call again the next morning at twelve; and the servants had orders, when he did call, to say we were not at home. On receiving this message the next day, he left word he would wait on us again the following day at twelve. He was no sooner gone, than Lord Melbourne came, and on being told the particulars of Lord Lyttelton and his friend, said, he begged neither of them might be any more admitted; nay, he made a point of it, and seemed rather hurt at their visit. Mrs. Baddeley promising never to see either of them again, but in public, the subject dropped. His Lordship told us, that he had met with Mr.

Hanger last night at Almack's, where he won two thousand pounds, which he supposed would be of service to him, if he did not lose it again before he left the table. Lord Melbourne said, he was going to Chelsea to meet his Lady, who had taken an airing that way, and on his return would bring Mrs. Baddeley some flowers.

Mrs. Baddeley reminded me, that as Mr. Gaby was now in cash, it would be no bad time to get paid for my horse, and some money he owed me. I, thinking the same, wrote to him, and demanded payment, but to no purpose: his answer was a verbal one, and imported, that I might call on him if I pleased,

pleased, and he would talk to me; but this I did not choose to do: therefore it rested as it is, unpaid to this day. The old Lord Harrington now called to see Mrs. Baddeley: she saw him, but not meeting such a reception as he liked, he soon took his leave, saying, he would wait on her some other time. Lord Melbourne returned in the evening, and whilst he was with us, Mr. Hanger knocked at the door, and said, he called in consequence of my letter. I saw him, and told him I hoped he was come to pay me. "No," says he, "I never pay a bill on Sundays." "Then, what brought you here?" retorted I. "To see Mrs. Baddeley," says he. "That you will not," returned I, "depend

“pend upon it; so it is of no purpose
“to stay.” “He must see her,” he
said; and we had much altercation on
the subject; but I sent him off with-
out, though he was much offended.
Telling Mrs. Baddeley, in the presence of
Lord Melbourne, what passed, and what
I had done, his Lordship said, “I acted
“right, and he was much obliged to
“me.” During this relation, I was
called down to Lord Palmerston, who
said he was come to spend an hour
with us, if we were disengaged; but,
telling his Lordship we had company,
he went away, saying he would call
to-morrow. On my return, Lord Mel-
bourne said, “I presume you have
“enough to do all day, to get rid of
“your

“ your visitors. Sit down, I have
 “ a complaint against you.—Come
 “ trim your accuser. Mrs. Baddeley
 “ says, Mrs. Steele, you are too good to
 “ her:—Is that true?” “ I believe
 “ it is,” said I. “ Then,” returns Lord
 Melbourne, “ I shall not forget your kind-
 “ nefs at some future day.” I told his
 Lordship that I did not understand him;
 that I was happy in doing every thing
 in my power, to add to Mrs. Baddeley’s
 happiness, and that her attention and
 respect to me deserved it. This drew
 from him many civil expressions and
 various promises, which, like the fa-
 shionable world, he was pleased to forget.
 But he was liberal to Mrs. Baddeley, to
 the extreme; which encouraged her ex-
 travagance,

travagance, and led her even to run in debt when she had not money to pay. Tradesmen were constantly bringing things to tempt her, saying, she might pay for them at her leisure, for they were in no want of money; making a point, as I have already observed, to charge an exorbitant price for the little credit they give, and when the goods are purchased, are very importunate for their money. This led her often in debt, that embarrassed her; for she could not bear to be asked for money when she had it not to pay. She was ever buying of diamonds, though she could not wear them. When I was at home, I in some measure checked this, by my advice; but I seldom was from home, that

that she did not lay out a good deal of money in my absence. At one time (though I had only been absent two hours) she had bought as many things on credit, as came to eleven hundred and sixty nine pounds: part of this was point lace, to the amount of two hundred pounds; silver flowers and trimmings, to the value of one hundred pounds; a diamond necklace, valued at six hundred pounds; besides silks and other things. On my return, she told me what she had done; and I blamed her much, as this debt was for things she did not want. I represented to her that no man's fortune could support such extravagance, and the consequence I feared would be one day fatal to her.

She

She said his Lordship should pay it: but I begged her to consider that if she went on at this rate, it would at last tire him. She then said she would never act so again; that she was sensible she was wrong; and blamed me for going out and leaving her, saying, that when she was alone, they some way or other always brought things to her, and ever persuaded her to purchase them. Whether or not she was inclined, I did not inquire into; however, I took the necklace back to the jeweller, but could not make him take it again; he said he had sold it at a fair price, and would have nothing more to do with it, and expected to be paid agreeably to the note she had given him, which note was payable
in

in two months. Had she acquainted me with this particular, I should not have taken the necklace back, as I certainly knew the note would be paid away; which the jeweller told me was the case; of course I said little more to him on the subject, but returned home with the necklace as I took it.

The reader will judge from this how easily Mrs. Baddeley might have been led into steps that must have brought on her ruin very fast, had she not with her a friend like myself, that guarded her against it. This one day's folly might have completed it, had not his Lordship's generosity extricated her from it. Had I given way to this ex-

travagant conduct, she would soon have been many thousand pounds in debt.

Lord Palmerston called this day and invited us to dinner, and would have no denial; we of course went, and a very splendid entertainment we had. His Lordship was a man of Mrs. Baddeley's choice; but that reserved mode of conduct she ever attended to in his company, commanded from him the respect he always showed her.

On our return home, we learned that Lord Melbourne and several persons had called; and, among the rest, Mr. Johnston twice. Mr. Caswel came and invited us to dinner. He could not
smother

another a wish to renew his old acquaintance; said he was more in love with Mrs. Baddeley than ever, and a great deal to the like effect; but to no purpose. However, he prevailed on us to accept his invitation, and we promised to attend him. He was scarce gone, before Mr. R. Conway came in, in order to present us with tickets for a masked ball, at the Pantheon, which we accepted.

Mr. Giordini was now come to teach Mrs. Baddeley an Italian song; and whilst he was with her came Mr. Thomas Storer, brother to Mr. Anthony Storer, accompanied by Lord Winchelsea, whom he introduced as just

returned from his travels. As soon as they left us, this being opera day, I got Mrs. Baddeley to write a note to Lord Lyttelton, to request he would excuse her going to the Opera-house that evening, as she was far from well. This kept peace with Lord Melbourne, without affronting Lord Lyttelton, who had always behaved to us with the greatest respect and politeness.

Having thus released ourselves from an engagement that would have answered no good purpose, we devoted the evening to the entertainment of a few theatrical friends, whom we invited to supper. Mrs. Baddeley did not keep much company of this sort; she would occasionally

occasionally pay and receive a visit from those she respected ; and, as she always made her friends welcome, gave them the best wine she could get, and was ready to be of use to them upon all occasions, they were happy in her company.

Having thought proper to mention a variety of Mrs. Baddeley's extravagancies, it is but justice that I should say a word or two of her economy. In house-keeping, she was far from expensive. Though we had all sorts of French and Spanish wines, to entertain our noble friends with, when they did us the honour to dine with us, and our table was set out with elegance ; yet,

when we dined alone, a single joint served us for dinner, and nothing was drank but small beer. As lived our servants, so did we. Dinner was ready regularly at three; and if we were not at home at that hour, the cloth was removed, and the joint served up below. For the many years we lived together, we never opened a bottle of wine for ourselves, nor had we any strong beer. I made it a rule to settle and discharge all bills for house-keeping, every Monday morning, together with the coachman's bills for hay, corn, &c. which I always looked into and booked. I never paid a shilling, on Mrs. Baddeley's account, without taking a receipt; and obliged her to sit down with me, once
a fort-

a fortnight, to examine the accounts. I had frequently trouble to persuade her to this; but I would not let her rest till she did it, on two accounts; one for my own satisfaction, and another for the good it did her; as a reflexion on some extravagancies put her in mind of others, which she would not have thought of, but on this account. Whenever I conceived money to be ill laid out, I marked it with my pen; and she used to call this examination of accounts, her *lesson*. At these times an enormous sum, idly laid out by her, would strike her with its absurdity; and she would say, “I will not be so
“extravagant in future; I will attend
“to you, my dear Steele, and do as you
“advise

“advise me.” But this was only momentary. However, I often took the liberty to check her orders, when I thought them wrong; or the consequence would have been dreadful. But to return to my story.

Part of our company this evening were two female performers; their names are immaterial; and Mrs. Baddeley's good-nature would not suffer these ladies to go away, without giving them something for *keep-fakes*, as she called it, as a proof of her good wishes. These keep-fakes were gold trinkets of some value, and lace; but which she thought no more of, than if they had been copper.

The

The next day our house was crowded with visitors; but we were denied to all.

We went this morning to Mr. King's, the silk mercer, to purchase some more; and the counter was immediately spread with the newest silks. Lady such-a-one has had a gown of this, and Lady this and the other, a gown of that; and so on. Mrs. Baddeley was soon tempted, and purchased a winter silk, so rich, that she paid fifty shillings a yard for twenty yards, and another at twenty-eight shillings a yard; so that, with these two gowns, some more, and some linings, she made shift to get rid of a hundred pounds. Mr. King told her, that these silks were all the *ton*; and after this

one

one might easier have stopped a torrent than prevented her from the purchase.

On our return, she spread them in her chamber, for Lord Melbourne to see them when he next came. His Lordship, seeing them, said they were beautiful, but not so handsome as they ought to be, considering who was to be the wearer; and, being told the price, gave me one hundred pounds to pay for them, saying, “ Why did not she
“ buy more silks, whilst she was about
“ it? King has done well to-day;
“ for my Betsy has been there, and
“ bought silks to a great amount, in
“ order to hang her rooms; and when
“ they are completed, they will be
“ very

“very elegant.” And so indeed they ought; for his Lordship declared to me, upon his honour, that when the house, in Piccadilly, which he was building, was finished, and the furniture in it complete, so as to sit down in it to dinner, from a just calculation, it would cost him one hundred thousand pounds. “An astonishing sum!” exclaimed I. “It is a much greater sum,” continued his Lordship, “than I intended, when I first began; for Mr. Chambers’s (the surveyor’s) estimate of the house and offices, complete, did not exceed thirty thousand pounds; but, after they had gone on some way, and had made, by his orders, some few alterations, it came to twenty thousand
“sand

“ sand more : so that the buildings of
“ that house came to fifty thousand
“ pounds, besides the sixteen thousand
“ pounds paid for the old house and
“ ground.”

My readers will naturally conceive that Lord Melbourne must have had an immense fortune ; and so he had. He was the son and heir of Sir Matthew Lamb, who amassed great riches by lending out his money to the needy ; and the public is too well acquainted with the character of Sir Matthew, for me to say any thing on that head. Had Lord Melbourne been as good a calculator as his father, and not squandered his money as he did, he would have been a much
richer

richer man than he now is. But it is an old saying, "Money got over the devil's back is spent under his belly." His Lordship told me, that he gave a painter two thousand pounds, to paint only one cieling at his seat at Broomfield-Hall: so that, supposing, from his Lordship's taste, that every thing else is in proportion, we may not be surprised at what he bestowed on Mrs. Baddeley.

After Lord Melbourne had given me the one hundred pounds, as mentioned, to pay Mr. King, he made many inquiries respecting Lord Lyttelton; said he was pleased to hear we had put off our engagement with him; and that he went to the Opera-house that evening,

purposely, to find out whether we had kept our word with him. I told his Lordship, that Mrs. Baddeley wrote, and put off the engagement, on the plea of indisposition. Leaving his Lordship with Mrs. Baddeley, I went down stairs, and found an old gentleman seated in the parlour, to whom I made my obedience, and, sitting down, begged to know his commands. He said, it was with a lady named Mrs. Steele; and, on telling him my name was Steele, he said, “Madam, before I begin, I must
“ beg your promise of a candid and in-
“ dulent hearing.” I told him, “As
“ a gentleman, which he appeared to be,
“ I presumed he would say nothing to
“ give offence; and if so, and he would
“ tell

“ tell me his name and place of abode,
 “ I would readily attend to what he had
 “ to say; but it depended wholly on the
 “ matter he had to communicate, whe-
 “ ther I should hear him out or not.”
 He replied, “ Madam, my name is
 “ George Vaughan; I live in Marlbo-
 “ rough-street, and have done so many
 “ years, next to Dr. Cooper’s; and, to
 “ oblige a gentleman of title and for-
 “ tune, I wait on you to request the
 “ honour of his being permitted to wait
 “ on you to drink tea. If you will give
 “ him leave, I will acquaint you with
 “ his name.” To this I immediately
 said, “ You might well apologise, Sir,
 “ for your impertinence, and the imper-
 “ tinence of your friend who sent you;

“ and I beg the honour, as you are
“ pleased to call it, that you will leave
“ my house immediately, or I shall call
“ my servant to show you the way out :
“ and pray tell the person, whoever he
“ is, that sent you, that no part of my
“ conduct in life was, or is, such as
“ could give him reason to suppose his
“ visits would be accepted by me.”—

He begged pardon several times ; and
as I took hold of the bell, he begged
my permission to go. I told him, he
knew the door ; and off he went. On
inquiring how he came into the house,
I was told that he said he was a relation
of mine from the country, and begged
to see me : and, on the servant's saying
I was engaged with company up stairs,
he

he replied, "Don't disturb Mrs. Steele;
"if you will give me leave, I will wait
"her coming down." I told my servant he was no relation or acquaintance of mine, and he might be a thief for any thing he knew to the contrary. Giving him orders to be more careful in future, he promised it; and there the matter ended.

During the time this Mr. George Vaughan was here, Mr. Johnson called, and said, if Mrs. Baddeley did not intend to see him, she might be polite enough to leave a message to that effect. As he had heard she was indisposed the night before, he presumed she was now at home. The servant said, she was,

but too ill to be seen by any one. He then asked, if he could not see Mrs. Steele? She, says the man, is at present engaged, or I suppose you might. "Please, then," says Mr. Johnson, "to give my compliments to her, and tell her I will call again in two hours, and will not take up ten minutes of her time." Telling my servant, that if he called again I would see him, for I thought it prudent to put a stop to his calling, when he came the second time he was admitted. I saw him. He said, as he could not have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Baddeley, he took the liberty to request I would be kind enough to hear what he had so long wished to inform her of, and then said
a great

a great deal about his love and affection for her. I stopped him short, begged he would not say a word more upon the subject, for that his visits could not be received; and he would lay Mrs. Baddeley under great obligations, as well as myself, if he would not call at my house any more. To this he was deaf: I told him I had company, which I had left to wait on him, and that I must beg to be excused staying any longer from them. I thus got rid of him; but not without great reluctance on his part.

Lord Melbourne had sent down for me twice; and it was great entertainment, when I gave him an account of my visitors, particularly the old man
below.

below. He laughed very heartily, and wished I had made the footman kick the villain down the steps. "Had I
"seen him," says Mrs. Baddeley, "I
"should certainly have thrown some-
"thing at his head, for affronting you,
"my dear Steele, as he did." Mrs. Baddeley still complained of a pain in her head, and Lord Melbourne requested I would send for Dr. Eliot the next morning to attend her. I did; but he was of little service to her.

Whilst Dr. Eliot was with her, I was called down to the Duke of Ancafter, who was waiting below. He asked to see Mrs. Baddeley; but I told his Grace, Dr. Eliot was with her, and she
was

was too ill to see any one. He said many civil things, asked me a number of questions respecting her, and ended with declaring, that he had a most sincere esteem for her, and it would be her own fault if she was not a happy woman for life. I told his Grace, that it was out of her power to receive his visits, or those of any other Nobleman, in the way he had long wished; that she was then provided, and I hoped for life; that it was the wish of my heart, that she should pursue her profession only, wherein there was a greater prospect of happiness, than any fortune could make her, in the manner she received it, and his Grace proposed. I took the liberty then of saying, that I wondered men of fashion

fashion could not be contented with their wives, and be happy at home; that I thought he had an amiable one; and, that he ought to think so too. “So,” says he, “has Lord Melbourne;” “and yet you find he is not happy, as you call it, at home.” “It is even so, my Lord,” returned I; “but if I could have my will, one and all of you married gentlemen should find your happiness in your own houses, or you should be made to suffer in searching for it elsewhere.” His Grace laughed; and said, he did not expect such a lecture from me. I told him, they were the sentiments of my heart: “Then,” said he, “I wish you to alter them.” “Not while I live, my Lord,”

“Lord,” returned I; “and I trust
 “your Grace will find it out at last,
 “that, if there is no happiness at home,
 “there can be none abroad.” “Then,”
 says the Duke, “you would have one
 “go home and look for it?” “In-
 “deed I would,” replied I. “Well,”
 says he, “Mrs. Steele, I’ll take your
 “advice for once; but, remember, I
 “shall call again soon, and beg you
 “will present my kind compliments to
 “Mrs. Baddeley.” With this he left
 me; and I was pleased he was gone.
 I told Mrs. Baddeley what passed, and
 that, as it was unpleasant to me to be
 often in this disagreeable situation, I
 wished she would put an end to it.
 She laughed, and said she was under a
 thousand

thousand obligations to me. I told her I should be under a million to her, if she would do as I first proposed to her, and leave all the men to themselves. “How is that possible?” replied she; “I don’t run after them; and why they should follow me as they do, I am at a loss to know. It is no wish of mine: and, as to my connexion with Lord Melbourne, having broken with Mr. Garrick, and given up my singing at Ranelagh, I must preserve it, having now no other resource. I must, therefore, continue as I am with Lord Melbourne; but, for the Duke of Ancafter, or any other man, except”—and here she stopped. “Except who?” retorted I.—“One,” says

says she, "I must not name." "For
"God's sake," returned I, with some
warmth and vexation, "don't be foolish.
"Who's fell in your way now? —
"Some other plague, I fear!" I am
sorry to be again under the necessity of
speaking unkindly of her; but I can-
not smother facts. Let her have what
stable connections she would, she was
restless, unless she had, at the same time,
a favourite visitor of her own choice, to
whom she might, when she pleased, be-
stow her unfought favours. After some
conversation, I found out, that this new
favourite, was no other than Mr. Thomas
Storer, brother to Mr. Anthony Storer,
Secretary to the Duke of Dorset, when
Ambassador at Paris. This folly of

Mrs. Baddeley, for I can call it by no softer name, in the end, led her into very disagreeable situations, which the reader will in the course of this work be made acquainted with.

On this declaration of her's, I asked her if she was mad ; and told her, if I saw any thing improper pass between them, I would not live with her another day. This was the only method I had of bringing her to herself, whenever she acted without some little consideration. Mr. Storer, however, being a man of gallantry and of the ton, took every opportunity of throwing himself in her way, and had perseverance enough to succeed with her. Finding he came too frequently

frequently to our house, I forbade his visits. She thought proper, notwithstanding, to see him occasionally. He came one evening with Lord Winchelsea, and staid supper; this was an engagement I could not put off, having other friends in company.

On his going away, I saw him put a piece of paper into Mrs. Baddeley's hand, and when he was gone, she said to me, "Here's a note from Storer, I have not seen it; will you be so good as to read it?" It was only to tell her, how much he was in love with her, and wished for an opportunity to express himself more fully. I put it into the fire, saying, he should come here no

more, and gave orders to be denied, whenever he called. This gentleman therefore called and called to no purpose. At every public place, however, where there were hopes of seeing Mrs. Baddeley, he was sure to be there, and took all the pains in his power to gain her favour. He pressed much to be admitted at our house, but I told him it was impossible, as his visits would not be approved of, Mrs. Baddeley's situation putting it out of her power to receive any visitors, in the light he wished to be received ; therefore, I should not suffer him to come to my house. This gave him offence ; he thought himself treated with disrespect.—I told him I meant no such thing ; that I liked to speak
my

my mind freely, and should certainly act as I said; and that I had various reasons for so doing, which I did not think necessary to explain. "Well then," said he, "I suppose Mrs. Baddeley is so far her own mistress, that she can come to see me." "That's with herself," returned I; "if she thinks herself so very independent, and thinks proper to do it, she must abide by the consequence." This offended him more. Mrs. Baddeley, who stood by, made no reply, as she was certain, whenever she followed my advice, that she was right. He begged to be permitted to say a few words to her alone, and on my saying he should not, he replied, he would then try what he could

could do in defiance of me. This made Mr. Storer my enemy, and though he had no power to injure me, we never were on friendly terms. He was not however remiss in his pursuits. And one morning Mrs. Baddeley going out in her coach, to her milliner's alone, I not being well; meeting with Mr. Storer, she took this opportunity of going with him to his lodgings in Bruton-street; as she afterwards confessed to me. She was not much longer than I thought necessary, but did not want an excuse on her return. It was sometime afterwards, before I learned from her, that she was at Mr. Storer's lodgings, when, shewing myself very much displeased, she assured me nothing improper passed between

1103

between them. I reasoned with her again, on her treachery to Lord Melbourne, and represented to her that Mr. Storer was a married man, and a very gay one; and that should any connexion with him get abroad, it might be attended with bad consequences to her, and to those who ought not to suffer by her imprudence. She declared she was innocent with respect to any such charge, acknowledged herself obliged to me for my advice, and promised she would not act in such a manner again.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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Steele, Elizabeth

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